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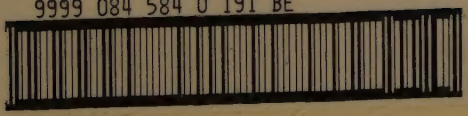

STAFFORDSHIRE PLACE NAMES

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NOTES ON

STAFFORDSHIRE

PLACE NAMES

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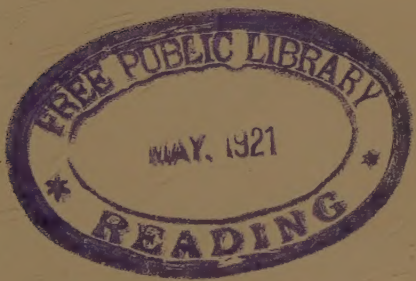
BY

W. H. DUIGNAN

OF WALSALL



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PREFACE

THE study of place names is a modern science. Until Kemble published his *Codex Diplomaticus* (1839–48), our Anglo-Saxon records were inaccessible to ordinary students. They were scattered, and those in public institutions were uncatalogued, unindexed, and difficult to decipher; in addition, the language in which they were written was understood by few, and generally neglected. Kemble performed his work under great difficulties, and, as the charters related to most parts of England, without the advantage of local knowledge. His arrangement is confusing, the index incomplete, and his correlation of ancient to modern names deficient, and frequently erroneous. Thorpe published his *Diplomatarium Anglicum* in 1845, containing some additions to Kemble's work, and several accurate and useful translations. The Government, since 1873, have published four folio volumes of *Facsimiles of Ancient Charters in the British Museum*, and three similar volumes of *Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts*, with transliterations and translations. Mr. W. de Gray Birch between 1885 and 1893 also published three quarto volumes of *Cartularium Saxonicum*, comprising all known charters to the year 975. This work, so far as it goes, is infinitely superior to Kemble's *Codex*, being well annotated; but it is incomplete, and has an

index only of personal names. We had no Anglo-Saxon dictionary, worth the name, until Bosworth published his in 1838, a vastly improved edition of which was issued by the Clarendon Press, under the editorship of Professor Toller, between 1882 and 1898. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that county and other historians, who thought it necessary to deal with local etymologies, should generally display little learning, and make frequent and flagrant mistakes.

The study of Anglo-Saxon, or Old-English as some prefer to term it, is now however open to all, and is fast being considered a necessary part of liberal education. Knowledge of the language is indispensable in construing place names, as probably ninety per cent. of them have their genesis in it. The philologist also has opportunities to refresh himself by researches in Norman-French, Norse, Welsh, and other Celtic languages; so that he will probably never lack occupation, or cease to learn.

After Anglo-Saxon records, our next authority is Domesday Book. It is wonderfully correct, considering the rapidity of its compilation (it is said to have occupied two years), that it is the work of Norman commissioners and clerks taking oral evidence from A. S. witnesses, and was transcribed from the crabbed and abbreviated writing of the period by other clerks. Numerous errors are of course to be found in it, and local charters of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are often preferable authorities.

It is rarely safe to trust the present form of a name. Change has been going on at all times, and corruption crept in long before the Conquest. 'Before

attempting an etymology, ascertain the earliest form and use of the word ; observe history and chronology ; observe phonetic laws ' (Professor Skeat).

The gravest errors are perpetuated in history in consequence of the ignorance of early writers of everything concerning place names. As Professor Skeat says, ' they had no means of ascertaining principles that are now well established, and instead of proceeding by rule had to go blindly by guess.' It is certainly important to know whether a battle in which Ceawlin (King of Wessex) was defeated by the Britons in 592 was fought at Wanborough in Wilts., or at Wednesbury in Staffordshire. These places are about ninety miles apart, and we cannot understand the relative occupation of the country by Saxons and Britons, at the time referred to, without identifying the locality. Three versions of the A. S. Chronicle, under the year 592, say ' There was a great slaughter in Britain at *Woddesbeorge*, and Ceawlin was driven out ' ; but a fourth version says '*at Wodensbeorge*.' Henry of Huntingdon says '*at Wednesburie*,' Ethelweard's Chronicle '*at Wodnesbyrg*,' and Florence of Worcester '*at Wodnesbeorh, that is Woden's Mount*.' Camden lays the scene at Woodborough (which he feels constrained to spell *Woodensburge*), seven miles south-east of Devizes. This does not commend itself to Gough, who says, in his *Additions* to Camden, ' But Woodborrow being the only village whose name retains any traces of *Wodensburg*, and there not being the least sign or tradition of a battle fought there, others suppose that Wanborow is the town in question ; for *Wodensburgh* might as easily pass into *Wanborough* as *Wodensdic* into *Wansdike*.'

Lingard accepts '*Woodensburg*' (there is no such place) 'in Wilts.' Elton (*Origins of History*) says 'it was probably at Wanborough'; and Kemble, finding a *Wodnesbeorg* (plainly on the bounds of Alton in Hants) in charters 1035 and 1070 (*Cod. Dip.*), recklessly assigns it, in his Index, to Wanborough. Sir R. A. C. Hoare suggests *Woodborough* in Wilts. Thorpe says 'it is undetermined,' and Dr. Guest (*Origines Celticae*) writes, 'The place, beyond all question, is Wanborough in Wilts.'; and he argues that he would expect *Wodensburgh*, by the eleventh or twelfth century, to soften into *Woden-burgh*, of which *Wanborough* would be the modern corruption. Later writers have accepted this view without investigation. Now it is impossible it can be Wanborough, because in three charters of the ninth century that place is recorded as *Wenbeorg*; in Domesday it is *Wemberge*, the *m* being an evident mistake for *n*. *Wen*, in the ninth century, could not represent an original *Woden*. There is only one Wednesbury in England (the *Wodensbeorg* in Alton being out of the question and now unknown), and I suggest that the *Woddesbeorge* of three versions of the Chronicle is an error for *Wodnesbeorge*. There is another reason why Wednesbury should be preferred. It is well known that the Saxons advanced from the south and east, gradually driving the Britons before them. The Chronicle, under the year 577 (fifteen years before the battle referred to), says 'Cuthwine and Ceawline fought against the Britons at Deorham, and took three cities from them, Gloucester, Cirencester, and Bath.' It is more likely that the victorious Caewlin advanced northward to Wednesbury, than

that he fell back forty miles south. Again, the Chronicle, under 715, tells us that 'Ina' (King of Wessex) 'and Ceolred' (King of Mercia) 'fought,' three versions say '*at Woddesbeorge*,' and two say '*at Wodnesbeorge*.' Ethelweard's Chronicle says '*at Wothnesbeorge*' (*th* clearly representing *d*). Florence of Worcester writes '*at Wodnesbeorh*.' Commentators also assume this to mean Wanborough. I submit that both the events referred to took place at Wednesbury in Mercia, not at Wanborough in Wessex.

Even contemporary writers of eminence are exceedingly slipshod in construing place names, and deducing history from them. Any old nonsense is good enough. The third edition of *The Story of some English Shires*, by Mandell Creighton, D.D., late Lord Bishop of London, has just (1901) been published, the writer, we are told in the preface, being 'one of the recognized masters of English history.' Well, to him Lichfield is 'the field of corpses'; Stafford is 'the ford over the broadening stream which could be crossed by the help of a staff.' Wolverhampton 'tells, by its name, of the ravages made by the wild wolves on the flocks of its first inhabitants.' Coventry 'took its name from the convent round which it gathered,' overlooking the fact that Coventry was *Cofantreo* centuries before the Conquest, and that *covent*, meaning a convent, was borrowed from the French, and is not found in our language before 1225. The rest of the etymologies are of similar value.

A large proportion of place names, throughout the world, have their origin in personal names. 'Their

inward thought is that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling-places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.' In construing these names we must remember that nicknames, pet names, and short names were as common before the Conquest as they were in the last century; and further, that Time inclines to brevity. 'Letters, like soldiers on a long march, have a tendency to drop off and desert.' Our old writers, when they recognize a personal name, usually assign it to some distinguished individual. But all the prominent names in history were borne alike by nobles and peasants; and it is more likely that a place would take its name from an original settler than from some great man, unless known in the locality. The influence of personal names has only been recognized within the last thirty years. Until the publication of Mr. Searle's *Onomasticon Anglo-Saxonicum* (1897), which gives a list of personal names from the time of Beda to that of King John, all collections were fragmentary. I have found the work of infinite service, and the author is entitled to the gratitude of all philologists.

The Norsemen appear to have influenced, to some extent, the formation of place names in the moorland district of North Staffordshire. This influence is entirely absent in the south of the county. Whether a colony of Norsemen settled on the moorlands, or their descendants migrated from the north, or the language trickled down, we cannot tell; but Norse influence is apparent north of Newcastle, Cheadle, and Uttoxeter.

In cases where I have been unable to arrive at a satisfactory opinion I have thought it best to give

the forms I have met with, and leave the construction to others who may have more learning, or meet with better material.

Farm and field names are frequently of extreme antiquity, and in a word sometimes convey a story. The difficulty with them is that without access to the owner's title-deeds it is hard to get reliable early forms. They can therefore only be scantily dealt with. Old street names are often historically interesting, and municipal records generally afford early forms. I have been chary of them to avoid incumbrance, and probably they would be more interesting in municipal history. Many of them have their origin in Norman-French, the language of the law courts and lawyers for about a hundred and fifty years prior to 1363. Take for instance a street name in Walsall. Ablewell Street skirts the foot of the hill on which the church stands, and is connected with it by a side street called 'the Ditch.' In the thirteenth century the name of the street was *Aval-walle*. In N. F. *aval* means 'below,' and *walle* is a M. E. word commonly applied to earthworks or ancient entrenchments. 'The Ditch' represents the fosse of these earthworks, which was visible fifty years ago, and may still be traced. Altogether we get this story: that, in remote times, the church hill was crowned by earthworks (a fort). That the ancient fathers built, within the fort, a primitive church, not for defence, but because it was their common policy to use any place frequented or venerated by the heathen people, as being attractive to them. And the town grew round the church.

I have to express my acknowledgements and thanks

to Major-General the Honourable George Wrottesley, whose patient and learned labours in the compilation of *Collections for a History of Staffordshire* (William Salt Archaeological Society) first suggested, and greatly facilitated, these notes; to Professor Skeat, of Cambridge, for advice on many occasions, always most promptly and courteously afforded; and to my friend, Mr. W. H. Stevenson, Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, for his valuable revision, for which, however, he is not to be held responsible further than indicated by his initials.

W. H. DUIGNAN.

WALSALL,
December, 1901.

PRINCIPAL CONTRACTIONS

A. S., Anglo-Saxon = Old English.
Bosworth-Toller, Bosworth-Toller's A. S. Dictionary.
c., century.
Cart. Sax., Birch's Cartularium Saxonicum.
Cod. Dip., Kemble's Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici.
D., Domesday Book.
dat., dative.
E. D. S., English Dialect Society.
E. E. T. S., Early English Text Society.
E. P. N., Britten and Holland's English Plant Names, E. D. S.
Eng. Dial. Dict., English Dialect Dictionary.
Exs., Examples.
f., *fem.*, feminine.
G., Gaelic.
gen., genitive.
h., hamlet.
H. E. D., Historical, or New, English Dictionary.
I., Irish.
L., Latin.
m., miles.
M., Manx.
M. E., Middle-English.
m., *mas.*, masculine.
N. F., Norman or Old French.
O. E., Old-English or Anglo-Saxon.
O. F., Old or Norman French.
O. N., Old Norse.
O. W., Old Welsh.
p. n., personal name.
pl. n., place name.
pr., pronounced.
W., Welsh.
W. H. S., W. H. Stevenson.

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SUFFIXES

Barrow, in various forms, is a common terminal. The root is A. S. *beorg, beorh,* M. E. *beoruh, berghe, berwe, borw, borg, burgh, barrough,* Mod. E. *barrow.* The original meaning is a hill, hillock, but at a very early period the word was commonly applied to a low, or burial-mound. The forms are so various in M. E. that great care is needful to distinguish them from A. S. *burh,* M. E. *burgh, borowe,* &c. *V.* Bury.

Bury, Borough, Berry. These terminals have their root in A. S. *burh,* dat. *byrig, byrg,* M. E. *burgh, borowe, burwe, borugh,* &c., meaning an enclosed place, from a castle, town, or village, to a single homestead surrounded by a wall or rampart of earth. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish the forms, which in M. E. are very varied, from A. S. *beorg, beorh, beorge,* a hill, tumulus (*v.* Barrow). (The *r* was strongly rolled, and the *h* was like Scotch *ch* in *loch*; thence development of *u* in form *borough.* Burgh, in Lincolnshire, is pronounced 'Borough.' W. H. S.) *Burgh, burg, burh,* in A. S. dictionaries are generally interpreted a fortified place, a town, a city. But we must remember that, with few exceptions, towns and cities were not founded right away, but grew from small beginnings—perhaps a single homestead—and acquired a name before they had any pretensions to importance. In a charter of 996 'the old burg' is mentioned as on the bounds of a manor. The bounds are precisely what they were, and the description so accurate that every locality can be identified. The 'old burg' consists of seven small pits, the dwellings of some primitive race.

No trace of enclosure or earthwork remains, and it is improbable that any ever existed. Pit-dwellings could only have been occupied by some persecuted feeble race hiding themselves in holes; and yet the place is called a *burg*.

Don, a common terminal, from A. S. *dūn*, *dūne* (pr. *down*), a mountain, hill, 'down.' In Staffordshire pl. names it may always be translated 'hill,' the county having no mountains or downs. In M. E. it appears as *dūne*, *doune*, *doun*. *Dun* is a common word in Celtic and Teutonic languages. In I. it is generally applied to a hill-fort. In W. the form is *din* and *dinas*, with a similar meaning.

Field, Feld, Felt, common terminals from A. S. *feld*, a field; in pl. names not an enclosure as we now understand it, but 'a plain, open unenclosed country as opposed to woodland; an expanse.'

Ford, a common terminal from A. S. *ford*, a road or passage through a stream, irrespective of its size. In A. S. charters a road to a man's house which crosses a rivulet is frequently called So-and-So's 'ford.'

Hale. This very common terminal is usually treated as a form of A. S. *heall*, a hall, or principal dwelling; but it seems also to be a form of A. S. *healh*, Mercian *halh*, dat. *healе*, Mercian *hale*, which Bosworth-Toller's Dictionary gives as 'a word of doubtful meaning'; but it is certainly used in A. S. charters in the sense of meadow or pasture land. Kemble (Cod. Dip.) always construes it 'hall'; but it is clear that many pl. names now ending in 'hale' or 'hall' refer to meadow-land. *Rischale*, now Rushall, cannot mean a hall built of rushes. It is more likely to mean 'rushy meadow or pasture'; *Fearnhealas* cannot mean Fern halls, but may reasonably be read 'ferny meadows'; *Hǣthhalan* is more likely to mean 'heathy meadow' than 'heath hall,'

and so on. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, I construe *hale* as 'hall.' In the early part of the 14 c. the words *hale* and *halle* (from O. F. *hale*) were applied to places roofed over, but usually open at the sides, to pavilions, tents, and booths; hence our town-*hall*, market-*hall*. In pl. names, however, this meaning must be disregarded.

Ham. This common terminal is usually derived from A. S. *hām*, home, a dwelling; but many places now ending in *ham* derive that part of their name from A. S. *hamm* and *holm*, river-side meadow. (*Holm* is O. N., not O. E., in this sense. W. H. S.) Yes; probably borrowed from O. N. before the Saxons came here; I am unwilling to admit that the Norsemen had any influence whatever in the formation of *early* Staffordshire pl. names, except in North-East Staffs.

Hay, a common prefix and terminal, is from A. S. *hege* ($g = y$), meaning (1) an enclosed place, (2) a locality known by defined bounds, but not enclosed. Forests were usually divided into hays for administrative purposes. Cannock Forest is sometimes recorded as 'The Forest of the Seven Hays.' In M. E. *hege* becomes *heye*, *heie*, *haie*, *haye*, *hay*, and similar forms. It is allied to A. S. *haga*, M. E. *haw*, *haghe*, *hawe*, which also means an enclosure, and is frequently applied to burgage tenements in towns.

Hill, a common terminal, and an occasional prefix, is from A. S. *hyll*, M. E. *hul*, *hulle*, a hill. The word is comparative, and often applied in level districts to slight elevations.

Hope, in various forms, is a common terminal, and an occasional prefix in the Midlands, especially Salop. It is A. S. *hop*, M. E. *hope*, only to be found in A. S. dictionaries in its adjectival form, *hopig* ($g = y$), in hills and hollows, or in compound, such as *mōr-hopu* (plural), moor-hope, a fen. It means 'a valley between two hills.' Exs.: Hopwas, Hopton,

Woolhope, Ratlinghope, &c. *Hope*, *bach*, *combe*, have substantially the same meaning.

Ley, Leigh, Lea, Ly, Lay. These common terminals are from A. S. *leah*, gen. and dat. *leage* (*g* = *y*), M. E. *ley*, *leye*, *lay*, *le*, open untilled land used as pasture, the unenclosed parts of a manor, which might be grassy, bushy, woody, or varied. For brevity I translate the forms as 'pasture.

Low, a common terminal, from A. S. *hlāw*, M. E. *lawe*, *lowe*, a mound, hillock; but, in pl. names, may always be read 'burial-mound,' 'barrow.'

More, Moor, common terminals, from A. S. *mōr* (pr. *moor*), M. E. *mōr*, *more*, *moore*. The word is usually applied to waste, swampy land; but sometimes to high, waste ground, untimbered.

Ton, Tone, Tun, terminals and occasional prefixes, are A. S. *tūn*, dat. *tūne*, M. E. *toun*, Mod. E. *town*. The original meaning of the word was 'an enclosure, a field or place surrounded by a bank or hedge'; hence 'barton,' an enclosure for corn, 'appleton,' an apple orchard. It then came to signify 'a separate dwelling with the land enclosed about it.' Now it is usually applied to a large village, a town; but the original sense is expressed in most of our pl. names ending in 'ton.' As late as 1389 Wycliffe writes, Matt. xxii. 5: 'But thei dispisiden, and wenten forth, oon to his toun' (field), 'anothir to his marchaundise.' (*Tūn* was shortened in compounds, hence *ū*, not *ow*, the development of *ū* in normal circumstances. W. H. S.)

Wich, a common terminal from A. S. *wic*, dat. *wice* (*c* = *ch* before *e*), M. E. *wic*, *wike*, *wyke* (also in composition assibilated *-wich*, *-wych*, *-wyȝ*, from L. *vicus*, a place), dwelling, village, town. In the N. and E. it becomes, under Scandinavian influence, *wick* and *wyke*. The word is not to be confounded with *wick*, on the coast, which is generally

from O.N., and means a bay; nor with *wich* (origin unknown), a salt spring, or salt town; e.g. Droit*wich*, Nant*wich*, North*wich*, Middle*wich*, Shirley*wich*, &c.

Worth, a common terminal, is A. S. *worth*, *weorth*, *wurth*, *wyrth*, *wierth*, homestead, farm, estate, property. It is allied to A. S. *worthig*, *weorthig*. *wurthig*, *wyrthig*, sometimes found as *worthign*, *worthine*, which has precisely the same meaning. The latter forms have frequently, especially in Salop, hardened into *wardine*, e. g. Shrawardine, Belswardine, Pedwardine, Cheswardine, &c.; and in the SW. have become *worthy*, as in Holsworthy, King's Worthy, &c.

STAFFORDSHIRE
PLACE NAMES

Abbey Hulton, h., in Burslem. 13 and 14 c. *Hulton.* A. S. *hyll*, M. E. *hil*, *hull*, and A. S. *tūn*, M. E. *toun*, town (*v.* Ton)—Hilltown. Abbey is an addition, after the erection of a Cistercian abbey here in 1223.

Abbots Bromley, *v.* Bromley Abbots.

Abbot's Castle hill, 2 m. W. of Trysull, a long ridge of hilly ground, here forming the boundary between Staffordshire and Salop. 1294 *Aguardes-castel*; 1300 *Apewardes-Castle.* It is clear that *Aguard* and *Apeward* represent one of the many A. S. names ending in *-weard*, e.g. *Ælfweard*, *Æthelweard*, &c.; but the forms are too corrupt for identification. The connexion of an 'Abbot' with the locality may be dismissed, and we must be content to know that the 'castle' (probably the prehistoric earthworks on the ridge) was named after some A. S. whose name commenced with *A-* or *Æ-* and ended in *-weard.* The gen. *es* in the forms makes this certain.

Abnalls (The), an ancient estate 1 m. NW. of Lichfield. 13 c. *Abbenhale, Abbenhall. Æbba* was an A. S. p. n., which, later, became *Abba*, gen. *Abban.* The terminal *hale* (q.v.) I construe 'hall'—Æbba's hall.

Ackbury or **Hackbury,** a farm 1 m. S. of Brewood. 13 c. *Herkebarewe*; 1304 and 1327 *Erkebarwe.* The terminal is plainly A. S. *beorh*, M. E. *berewe*, a hill or tumulus, in M. E. generally applied to a barrow or burial-mound. The prefix represents a p. n., probably originally *Arncytel*,

which was shortened to *Arcytel* and *Arcil*. It is not possible (with the forms) to identify the name, but Ackbury certainly means 'the burial-mound' of some one whose name is represented by 'Ack' and '*Erke*.'

Acton Trussell, 3 m. N. of Penkridge. 1004 *Āctūn*; D. *Actone*. A. S. *āc*, oak, *tūn*, town (*v.* Ton)—Oaktown. The long *ā* became in M. E. *o* or *oa*. It is curious that *Āctūn* has almost invariably maintained its form, whilst *Āclea* has become 'Oakley.' The Trussells were a Norman family holding lands in Staffordshire. They were early lords of Acton.

Adbaston, 4½ m. W. of Eccleshall. D. *Edbaldestone*; 12 and 13 c. *Adbaldestone, Alboldestun, Albaldiston*. Clearly from the A. S. p. n. *Eadbald*—Eadbald's town. The *es* is the full gen., now shortened to *s*.

Admaston, h., in Blithefield, 4 m. N. of Rugeley. 12 c. *Edmundeston, Admerdeston*; 13 c. *Admundestan, Admundeston, Edmundestone*. A. S. p. n. *Ēadmund*—Eadmund's town (*v.* Ton). There is an Admaston, h., 1½ m. NW. of Wellington, Salop, which, in the 13 c., was *Ademonston, Ademoneston*. The root is the same, 'Ēadmund.'

Agardsley, h., nr. Abbots Bromley. About 1004 *Eadgares leye*; D. *Edgareslege*; 13 c. *Adgaresle, Addegaresleye*. A. S. p. n. *Eadgar*, and A. S. *leah*, *leage*, pasture, untilled land —Eadgar's pasture (*v.* Ley). The Agards are an ancient Staffordshire family, taking their name from this place, or perhaps conferring it.

Alderley, h. in Meerbrook, 3 m. N. of Leek. 1129 *Aldredeslega*. A. S. p. n. *Ealdred*, later Aldred. The terminal *lega* is the latinized form of A. S. *leage* (*v.* Ley). The meaning is Aldred's pasture-land.

Aldershaw, h., 1 m. S. of Lichfield. 13 c. *Alreshawe*; 14 c. *Allershawe*. A. S. *alr, alre*, M. E. *aller, alder*, the alder (tree), and A. S. *sceaga*, M. E. *schawe, shawe*, a wood, grove, —the alder wood.

Aldridge, 3 m. NE. of Walsall. D. *Alrewic*; 12 c. *Alrewich, Allerwych,* frequently. A. S. *alr, alre,* M. E. *aller, alder,* alder (tree), and A. S. *wīc,* a village (*v.* Wich)—the alder village.

Almington, h., 1 m. E. of Market Drayton. D. *Almontone*; 13 c. *Alkementon.* The D. form points to the A. S. p. n. Ealhmund or Aldmund; but the later form (to which I give preference) points to *Alchmund* (*ch* = *k*)—Alchmund's town (*v.* Ton).

Alrewas, 5 m. NE. of Lichfield. 942 *Alrewas* and *Alrewasse*; 11 c. *Alrewes*; D. *Alrewas*; 12 c. *Alrewas.* A. S. *alr, alre,* alder (tree) (*v.* Aldridge), and *wæsc* (whence wash), a wash, swamp, fen—the alder swamp. Alrewas lies on Trent, nr. its junction with Tame, and the locality i liable to flood. Before the country was drained there must have been much fenny ground here, and alders are still common.

> 'Half my power this night,
> Passing these flats, are taken by the tide;
> These Lincoln *washes* have devoured them.'
> Shakespeare, K. John, v. 6. 41.

Cf. Sugwas, Broadwas, Hopwas, Moccas, all on river-sides and liable to flood.

Alston, h., 5½ m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Alverdestone.* A. S. p. n. *Ælfweard*—Ælfweard's town (*v.* Ton). The *es* in the D. form is the full gen., now shortened to *s.* There is, or was, for I cannot find it on the Ordnance map, an Alstone in Hill Chorlton, nr. Whitmore, which in the 12 c. was *Aluredstone,* from the p. n. *Ælfred.*

Alstonfield, nr. Leek. D. *Ænestanfelt.* This is an illustration of the importance of early forms. I see no reason to distrust D., but for which we might conclude that this *Alston-* had the same meaning as the preceding example. The terminal *felt* in the D. form is a common representation of A. S. *feld,* a field (*v.* Field). *Æne* is the A. S. p. n. *Æne* or

Æna; and *stan*, A.S. *stān*, stone—Æne's-stone—field. There may have been, in the locality, some remarkable stone known as Æne's stone; but the probability is that the stone marked the boundary of Æne's property.

Alton, Alveton, or **Alton Towers,** 7½ m. NW. of Uttoxeter. D. *Elvetone*; 13 and 14 c. *Alneton* (read *Alvēton*) frequently. This would probably be, originally, *Ælfantūn*, from the A.S. p. n. *Ælfa*, or a short form of one of the many p. names commencing *Ælf-*, such as *Ælfgar*, *Ælfgeat*, *Ælfcytel*, &c.—Ælfa's town (*v.* Ton).

Amblecote, a suburb of Stourbridge, but in Staffordshire. D. *Elmelecote*; 13 c. *Amelecote*, frequently; 14 c. *Cote Hamele* (Hundred Rolls), *Amelcote*. I think the Hundred Rolls give the key, and that we may read this Hemele's cot. *Hemele* was a well-known A.S. p. n., appearing in D., in a latinized form, as *Hamelinus*. The dropping of an initial *h* was common in M.E.

Amerton, h., 5½ m. NE. of Stafford. 13 c. *Embricton*; later, *Ambricton*, *Ambrighton*. A.S. p. n. *Eanbriht* (older *Eanbeorht*)—Eanbriht's town (*v.* Ton).

Anker, river, flows into Tame at Tamworth. This is a M.E. name (from A.S. *ancra*). The M.E. forms are *ancre*, *ankre*, *anker*, an anchorite, hermit, nun, the word being both mas. and fem. The river is twenty miles long, and there were two hermitages, both for 'anchoresses,' and a nunnery (Polesworth) upon its course. Ankerwyke, nr. Staines, 'Anchoret's village,' has a similar origin, a Benedictine nunnery having been founded there in the 12 c.

Anslow, h., 3½ m. NW. of Burton-on-Trent. 1004 *Ansythlege*, *Eansythelege*, *Ansideleye*; 13 and 14 c. *Ansedesleye*; later, *Ansedeleye* and *Ansley*. The early forms point to the A.S. fem. p. n. *Eanswyth*. It may be a saint's name; there was a St. Eanswyth, and Anslow belonged to the monks of Burton, who maintained a chapel here, destroyed after the Reformation; it is not known to whom it was

dedicated. We may, however, safely conclude that the meaning of Anslow is Eanswyth's pasture-land (*v.* Ley).

Apeton, h., 5½ m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Abetone*; 13 c. *Abbeton*, *Apeton*, *Abeton*; 14 c. *Apeton*. These forms point to the A. S. p. n. *Abba*, *Æbba*, or *Æbbe* (fem.), and favour the last. I therefore translate the name Æbbe's town. The correct A. S. form would be *Æbbantūn*.

Aquilate, h., in Meertown, 2 m. NE. of Newport. 1129 *Aquila*; 13 c. *Aquilade*, *Aquilone*; 14 c. *Aquilot*; 16 c. *Acquilat*. The first form, *Aquila*, I have only met with as a p. n., but I think it is the right root, and that the other forms represent it. In the Pipe Rolls for 1129 Matilda *de Aquila* is returned as a Staffordshire tenant *in capite*. She was a daughter of the Norman house of L'Aigle. I am not able to prove that Matilda owned Aquilate, but it would, I think, be impossible to find any other place in Staffordshire which could be represented by *Aquila*. I need scarcely say that *Aquila* is only the L. form (the Pipe Rolls are in L.) for French 'L'Aigle' and English 'Eagle.' Except as forms of Aquila, no sense can be made of *Aquilade*, *Aquilone*, or *Aquilot*. Matilda was the widow of Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, and, with licence from the Pope, married his nephew Nigel de Albini; but the marriage was questioned, and Albini remarried. Matilda remained a widow, and resumed her maiden name. She had manors in Dorsets., and has conferred her name on Winford, since known as Winford 'Eagle.' Montgomery, and Caux, in Salop, are examples of the adoption of Norman p. names as pl. names.

Arley (Upper), 4½ m. NW. of Bewdley. 994 *Earnleie*; D. *Ernlege*; 1100 *Ernlege*; 12 and 13 c. *Erlei*; 13 c. *Arnlegh*. A. S. *earn* means an eagle, and Professor Skeat is of opinion that Arley means 'Eagle's lea.' But Arley is not a likely place for eagles, having no rocks or cliffs about it, and *Erne*, *Earn*, was an A. S. p. n., as 'Eagles' is now.

It is also the prefix to numerous names, such as *Earnbald*, *Earngeat*, *Earngrim*, &c. I think it more likely, therefore, that *Earn* here represents a p. n. than an eagle.

Arley Kings, or **Lower Arley**, 1 m. S. of Stourport. D. *Ernlege*; 12 c. *Ernleye*. *V.* Arley (Upper). It is 7 m. lower down the Severn than Upper Arley, and is called 'Kings,' because in the Middle Ages it belonged to the Crown, having twice escheated.

Armitage, h., 5½ m. NW. of Lichfield. 13 c. *Hermitage*; 16 c. *Hermytage*. This is a M. E. name, borrowed from the French, who had it from L. *eremita*. The word is found in M. E. as *hermitage*, *herymitage*, *eremitage* (*er* = *ar*). There was a hermitage here in the 13 c.

Ashley-on-Tern, 5 m. NE. of Market Drayton. D. *Esselie*; 13 c. *Assingelegh*. The D. form might be translated 'the ash lea,' from A. S. *æsc* (*c* = *ch*), M. E. *asch*, *esche*, an ash-tree, and D. commonly writes *esse* for ash; but the 13 c. form is probably the most reliable, and that appears to be the gen. or possessive form of the p. n. Æsca, originally *Æscanleah*. This (W. H. S. says) would be written *Esselie* in D., and the *-ing* of the 13 c. form is like Abingdon from *Æbban-dun*, through *Abendun*, *Abindun*.

Ashmore Brook, an ancient farm 2 m. NW. of Lichfield. 13 and 14 c. *Estmeresbrok*, *Asschmorebroke*, *Ashmeresbroke*. The forms are late, but I think they combine to give us Æscmær's (pr. Ashmar) brook. A brook runs through the farm, near the homestead, and forms a parish boundary. The possessive *s* in the forms points to a p. n.

Ashwood, Ashwood Lodge, 1½ m. W. of Kingswinford. 13 c. (frequently) *Aswode*, *Ashwode*. These M. E. forms clearly mean 'Ashwood.' Ashwood was one of the 'hays' or divisions of Kinver Forest.

Askew Bridge (in Sedgley), 1½ m. W. of Himley. I have no forms earlier than the beginning of the last century. I believe the name to be what it says—'a skew bridge'—that is,

a bridge which, instead of crossing the stream in a straight line, crossed it in an oblique or crooked line. In early times most bridges were built of wood, of rude workmanship. The present bridge would probably give no indication of the meaning; the name may have been acquired long ago when its site was occupied by a primitive structure. Near Church Stretton, in Salop, on the main road from the S. to Shrewsbury, is a substantial bridge called 'Quaking Bridge.' It was *Quakinggebrugge* in 1253, and doubtless took its name originally from its frail condition. The name 'Askew Bridge' cannot be rare, as the Century Dictionary, under 'Skew,' says: 'Skew bridge, a bridge placed at any angle, except a right angle, with the road or stream over which it is built.' *Skew* and *askew* appear to be synonyms. The word is of doubtful origin, and was not used in England before the 16 c. (H. E. D.). 'Askew Hill,' near Repton, in Derbyshire (erroneously marked on Ordnance map 'Asketh'), appears, from the contours, to be a crooked hill.

Aspley, h., 3 m. N. of Eccleshall. D. *Haspeleia*; 1227 *Aspeleg* (*g* = *y*) frequently. A. S. *æsp*, *æspe*, M. E. *aspe*, the aspen-tree, *Populus tremula*—the aspen-tree lea (*v.* Ley).

Aspley, h., in Shareshill. 13 and 14 c. *Espleye*, *Aspeleigh*. *V.* Aspley, nr. Eccleshall.

Aston, h., 2 m. SE. of Stone. D. *Estone*. A common pl. n., D. recording sixty-four manors under 'Estone.' In A. S. the correct form would be *Ēastūn*, 'East town.' All Astons I have been able to trace to their roots have this meaning. So all Suttons (originally *Sūthtūn*) are South town; Nortons (*Northtūn*), North town; Westons (*Westūn*), West town. What they were east, south, north, or west of it would now be difficult to say. I think it undesirable to multiply early forms with a clear root; but I may say that in the 12 c. 'Aston' is a common form, and by the end of the 13 c. 'Estone' disappears, or takes the form

of 'Easton,' of which we have in England about thirty existing examples.

Aston, in Seighford, 2 m. NW. of Stafford. D. *Estone*. *V.* Aston, nr. Stone.

Aston (Little), h., 4½ m. W. of Walsall. 13 c. *Little Aston upon Colefeld, Little Aston upon le Colefield, Aston on Colefeld*; 14 c. *Aston on le Colefeld*. *V.* Aston, nr. Stone. The Colfield was an immense heath, partly in Cannock Forest and partly in Sutton Chase. Sutton Park was enclosed from it by Bishop Vesey temp. Henry VIII.

Audley, 4½ m. NW. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. D. *Aldidelege*; 12 c. *Aldithlege, Aldithleia*. I think these forms give us the fem. p. n. *Ealdgyth*, later *Aldgith* and *Aldithe*— Ealdgyth's lea (*v.* Ley). Audley is said to have taken its name from Aldithe, Harold's queen, but I know of no authority for the statement. The lady who conferred her name probably lived long before Harold's time, as D. records Wulfric and Godric as the Saxon possessors in the time of Edward the Confessor.

Austrells (The), the name of some fields standing on high ground in Aldridge. 13 c. *Asterhull*, frequently. M. E. *aster, astre, auster*, a hearth. (Origin unknown, probably borrowed from O. F.) In primitive times iron ores were smelted in a simple conical furnace called an air-bloomery, erected on the top of a hill in order to obtain a natural blast. They could only be used when the wind was favourable. The fuel was wood, coal being introduced by Dud Dudley about 1650, and slowly adopted. The enormous consumption of wood obliged the trade to follow it, and the ore was carried on horseback to the wood, for long distances, until the locality was denuded. Within a mile of the Austrells is 'Aston Forge,' known to have been an ironwork in 1329, and perhaps long before. I am not aware if any scoriae are to be seen on the Austrells, but they abound around Aston Forge. The meaning of this name is 'the hill of the hearth.'

In Derbyshire, where lead ores are found, the hilltops on which they were smelted are called 'Bole hills' or 'Bole-steads.' Bole hill is a common name there. *V.* Blymhill, Bonehill, and Smestow.

Baddeley Green, Baddeley Edge, 3 m. NW. of Hanley. 13 c. *Beddeleye.* A. S. p. n. *Bada, Badda*—Badda's lea (*v.* Ley).

Badenhall, h., 2 m. NE. of Eccleshall. D. *Badenhale*; 1227 *Badenhale.* A. S. p. n. *Bada, Badda*—Badda's hall (*v.* Hale).

Bageridge Woods, 4½ m. SW. of Wolverhampton. 1286 *Baggerugge* (Chase of); 1433 *Baggerugge.* A. S. p. n. *Bacga*, and A. S. *hrycg*, M. E. *rugge*, a ridge—Bacga's ridge. The woods, which are extensive and picturesque, cover a ridge of high land, and lay within the limits of Kinver Forest.

Bagnall, in Stoke-upon-Trent. 12 c. *Baggenhall*; 13 c. *Bagenholt* (twice), *Baghinholt*; 14 c. *Baknold.* The A. S. p. n. *Bacga* clearly forms the prefix, to which the *n* is the gen. addition. As to the terminals, the weight of evidence is in favour of A. S. *holt*, a wood, woodland, as against *hall.* I therefore construe this as 'Bacga's woodland.'

Balterley, h., 6½ m. NW. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. 1004 *Baltrytheleage*; D. *Baltredelege*; 13 c. *Baldridele, Balterdeleye, Baltrydelegh.* A. S. fem. p. n. *Bealdthryth*—Bealdthryth's lea (*v.* Ley).

Bannutt Tree (The), h., in Upper Arley, 3½ m. NW. of Bewdley. *Bannut* is a dialectic word (origin unknown), used in Worcestershire, and some of the adjoining counties, for 'walnut' and the 'walnut-tree.' 'The Bannutts,' 'The Bannutt Tree,' are fairly common names to homesteads. Upper Arley is an intrusive portion of Staffordshire into Shropshire, adjoining Worcestershire. I do not know any other example in Staffordshire.

Barlaston, 3½ m. NW. of Stone. 1004 *Beorelfestūn.* D. *Bernulvestone*; 12 and 13 c. *Berlaston* (frequently) and *Berleweston.* The first form gives the common A. S. p. n. *Beornwulf* (brave wolf), sometimes written *Beornulf.* In late A. S. charters p. names are spelt in various ways. As a rule I give the original form. Barleston, Leicestershire, in D. is *Bervlvestone* (read *Berulfestone*); I have no doubt both names have the same meaning.

Barnhurst, h., 3 m. NW. of Wolverhampton. 14 c. *Barnthurst, Barnehurst, Barnhurst, Barnthurst.* M. E. *barnde, barnt, brent,* burnt, and *hurst,* wood—Burntwood. Exs.: Burntwood, nr. Lichfield; Barnt Green, Worcestershire.

Barr (Great), 3 m. SE. of Walsall. 12 c. and afterwards, *Barre* or *Barr.* This is a Celtic survival, *Barr, Bar,* meaning in W., G., and I., 'the top or point of anything, a summit.' It is a common pl. n. in Scotland, and not uncommon in composition in Ireland; for example *Barmona,* in Wexford, the top of the bog; *Barravore,* in Wicklow, great top; *Barmeen,* in Antrim, smooth top. The name is rare in England, but there is, or was in the 13 c., a *Barre* in Lancashire, and a *Barre-juxta-Barnstaple* in Devon. At Great Barr there is a hill called Barr Beacon, conspicuous for many miles round. 'Great' is a M. E. addition, probably having no reference to the hill, but to distinguish this manor from the adjoining manor of Perry Barr or Barr Parva.

Barton-under-Needwood. D. *Bertone*; 13 c. *Barton*; 1337 *Barton-under-Nedwode.* The early form would be *Beretūn,* meaning, originally, 'barley town'; but *bere* came to mean any kind of grain. In this sense the word *barton* was applied to manorial or outlying farms or homesteads where grain was stored. In the SW. counties a rickyard is still commonly called 'the barton.' The word is not to be confounded with Burton, which generally has a different meaning. 'Under-Needwood' is a mediaeval addition to

distinguish it from other Bartons, and because it lay below the Forest of Needwood.

Bassetts Pole, an inn and h., 4 m. SW. of Tamworth, takes its name from the Bassetts of Drayton Bassett, who for several generations were Norman lords of that manor. In ancient times it was a common practice to mark the boundaries of property by a 'stapol,' i.e. an upright stone or pole of wood. The h. stands on the boundary of the counties of Warwick and Stafford; and the manors of Sutton Coldfield, Middleton, Canwell, Drayton Bassett, and the ancient limits of Cannock Forest and Sutton Chase, all meet here. The locality was formerly a vast heath. From time immemorial a pole had been set up (probably to mark the before-mentioned bounds), which acquired the name of Bassetts Pole. Ogilby (Book of the Roads, 1674) shows the pole as standing at 111 m. 4 f. from London, on the east side of the road. Mr. F. Wolferstan, writing from Drayton Bassett, January 17, 1756, says: 'On the South side, the parish and the county are both bounded by a hedge and a little gutter coming from Bassetts heath, which lyes on the West of the parish; and for the many roads which cross it is well known by travellers; but particularly for a place about the middle of it called Bassetts Pole, a noted mark and guide for travellers, as it stands just on the spot where the road from Tamworth to Birmingham cuts the great road to London at right angles. It used to stand like a maypole, twenty-five or thirty feet high; but is worn to the stump, though it is said it will be renewed, the parish, or the lord as some say, being obliged to it.' It probably was renewed, as Yates' Map of Warwickshire, 1787, shows a tall pole at that point.

Baswich or **Berkeswich**, 2 m. SE. of Stafford. D. *Bercheswic*; 12 c. *Bercleswich*, *Berecleswich*, *Berkeswich*; 13 c. *Berteleswych*, *Berkewiz*. A. S. p. n. *Beorcol* (later *Bercol*), and *wic*, a village (*v.* Wich)—Beorcol's village.

Beaudesert, mansion and park, 4 m. W. of Lichfield. 13 c. *Beaudesert*; 14 c. *Bellum Desertum* (L. deed); 16 c. *Beawdesert*. A N. F. name—beautiful wild. The park here, an ancient enclosure from Cannock Forest, is very lovely, undulating, and finely timbered. Beaudesert, in Warwickshire, is a M. E. change of name; it is recorded in D. as *Donnelie*.

Bednall, 4 m. NE. of Penkridge. D. *Bedehala*; 1271 *Bedenhulle*; 13 c. *Bedenhale* and *Badenhale*, both frequently. The prefix is clearly the A. S. p. n. *Beda*, the *n* being the correct gen. addition. The D. terminal *hala* is a latinized form of *heale*, the dat. of *healh*, meadow or pasture land, and if we accept that form the interpretation would be 'Beda's meadows.' The form of 1271 would give us Beda's hill (M. E. *hulle*), and the other forms, which are numerous, would give us 'Beda's meadows' *or* 'Beda's hall' (*v.* Hale).

Befcote, h., 5 m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Befecote*; 13 c. *Berscote*, *Bescott*, *Besscot*. This name is probably unique, and I think D. may here be trusted. The later forms are blunders of mediaeval scribes, who perhaps confounded the place with Bescot, nr. Walsall. The prefix represents the A. S. p. n. *Beffa*—'Beffa's cote' (cottage).

Beggars Bush, h., 3 m. SW. of Sutton Coldfield. There is a large hawthorn here which stands on the boundary of the parishes of Sutton Coldfield and Perry Barr, and of the counties of Stafford and Warwick; also on the old road from London to Chester. I know nothing of its history, but the name is common. 'Beggar' is not to be found in any A. S. dictionary, and even the H. E. D. treats the word as a M. E. one, and, under 'Beg,' as 'of uncertain origin'; whereas it must be an A. S. word, as 'Beggares-thorn' appears twice in a charter of 975, Cod. Dip. 587.

Bellamour, hall and h., 2 m. NW. of Rugeley. A modern mansion erected near the site of a house built by Herbert Aston (Astons of Tixall), on his marriage about 1639.

He had resided much abroad, and gave the house the name of *Bell amore* (Italian for 'good love') 'because it was finished by the benevolence and assistance of his friends,' and probably also with reference to his wife (Hist. of Colton). The original spelling ought to be reverted to.

Bentley, 2 m. W. of Walsall. 12 c. *Benœtlea*, *Benetlegh*; 13 c. *Benetley*, *Benetleye*. A. S. *beonet*, M. E. *bent*, coarse, stiff grass, of a reedy or rush-like character, such as grows on upland moors. The word *beonet* is not to be found in A. S. dictionaries, though it frequently occurs in charters as an element in pl. names, and exists in Old Saxon as *binet*. In M. E. certainly, 'the bent' is commonly used to describe a tract of country unenclosed, and producing mainly coarse grass or heath. The same meaning probably attached to the A. S. form, and to its use in pl. names, rather than to mere herbage. Bentley was one of the hays in Cannock Forest, and until the beginning of the 16 c. was woodland and moor, over which roamed herds of red and fallow deer. The 'great oaks' were felled and the deer destroyed temp. Edw. VI, 1546–53 (papers in Walsall Town Chest). The greater part of the manor is land of moorish tendency, and, left to itself, returns to sedgy grass and heath. Bentley is a common pl. n., and means 'the lea of the bent,' or 'benty grass'; *v.* Ley, and H. E. D. *s.* 'Bent.'

> 'They lighted high in Batinghope,
> Atween the brown and *benty* ground;
> They had but rested a little while,
> Till Parcy Reed was sleeping sound.'
> (The Death of Parcy Reed, 16 c.)

Berry or **Bury Hill**, 2 m. NW. of Stone, in a 13 c. deed is *le buri in Wulfcestre*. It is said that Wulphere, King of the Mercians (659–724), resided here, and that it was anciently known as *Wulpherceastre* (A. S. *ceastre*, a castle or fortress). *Buri* is a M. E. form of A. S. *burh*, an enclosed place surrounded by a wall or rampart of earth. *V.* Bury.

Bescot, h., 1½ m. W. of Walsall. D. *Bresmundes-cote*; 13 c. *Bermondscote*, *Bermonscot*, *Beremundescote*, *Bermundescote*; 14 c. *Berkescote*, *Berkmondescote*. A. S. p. n. *Beorhtmund*—Beorhtmund's cottage. This is an example of the tendency of syllables to drop out. In a charter of 969, not relating to Bescot, the p. n. appears as *Beremund*, showing how early contraction set in.

Betley, 6½ m. NW. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. D. *Betelege*; 12 c. *Betteleg* (*g* = *y*); 13 c. *Bettelegh*. *Beta* was an A. S. p. n. I read this as 'Beta's lea' (*v.* Ley). It might be said that the prefix represents A. S. *bet*, better, or *bete*, beet-root; but I think it extremely unlikely, and have never met with those words as elements in pl. names; nor can it be our 'Betty,' as 'Elizabeth' is a post-D. name. *Betti* was an A. S. name. This is the only *Betelege* in D., and the only Betley in England.

Bickford, 2 m. W. of Penkridge. D. *Bigeford*; 1334 *Bikeford*. Beckford is a common name, and usually means 'the ford of the brook' (A. S. *bec*, a small stream); but here our forms are *Bige-*, *Bike-*, *Bick-*, and probably represent the common A. S. p. n. *Bica*. If so, the original name would be *Bicanford*—Bica's ford. *Bick* forms the prefix to a large number of pl. names, such as Bickenhall, Bickenhill, Bickham, Bickley, Bicton, Bickmarsh, Bicknor, &c., so that its meaning is interesting.

Biddulph, 3 m. SE. of Congleton. D. *Bidolf*; 13 c. *Bidolf*, *Bidulf*, frequently. This is a rare instance of a p. n. without a suffix. A. S. *Beadulf* (correctly *Beaduwulf*—war-wolf). If we could trace the name before the Conquest we should probably find it *Beaduwulfestūn*. The tendency of names is to shorten; it increased after the Conquest, but commenced earlier.

Bilbrook, h., 4 m. NW. of Wolverhampton. D. *Bilrebroch*; 13 c. *Bilrebroch*, *Billebroc*. The terminal is plainly A. S. *brōc*, a brook. *Bilre* probably represents *bilders* or

billers, 'a name given by the old herbalists to some water plant,' 'in modern dialects applied locally to water-cress,' &c. (H. E. D. *s.* Bilders; E. P. N. *s.* Billers). I am unable to make anything else of *bilre*.

Billington, h., 3 m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Belintone*. The probability is that the modern form is correct. *Bil*, *Billa*, *Billing*, were all A. S. p. names. The *-ing* in Billing is probably patronymic, meaning 'sons or descendants of' *Bil* or *Billa*. I read this as Billing's town.

Bilston. 994 *Bilsetnatūn*, *Bilsetnetūn*; D. *Billestune*; 13 c. *Bilestun*, *Billeston*, *Bilestone*. *Bil*, *Billa*, and many names commencing *Bil-*, were A. S.; *sætna* is the gen. pl. of *sætan*, a settler, inhabitant. We have therefore here 'the town of Bil's folk.' In A. S. charters *sætna* frequently appears as part of a pl. n., when it really means 'the people' of the place. It quickly fell into disuse.

Birchills, h., 1 m. NW. of Walsall. 16 c. *Bircheleses*, *Byrchylles*, *Burchelles*, *Rough Byrchells covered with a wood*, *Byrchells*. Birchills has no connexion with birch-trees. The prefix *birch* represents an A. S. *bryce* (pronounced *breche*), which in M. E. passed into *bruche*, and later into *birch*. In old deeds we find field names, such as New*breche*, passing into New*bruche*, and then New*birch*; *Bruchehull* becomes Birchill. The shifting of the *r* in M. E. is well known to etymologists. Time softens all things, including language—thus our third was *thrid*, bird *brid*, dirt *drit*, and *breche* becomes birch. The meaning of *breche*, *bruche*, and *birch* is 'newly enclosed or broken up ground.' The word is only found on the frontiers of old forests and wastes, and is equivalent to the Lancashire *Royd*, and our Ridding, Stockings, Stubbock Green, Old Fallings, Old Falls, &c., all local names, meaning a clearing in the wilderness. Harvington *Birch* and Long *Birch*, nr. Brewood, *Breach* Mill, nr. Hagley, *the Breach*, in Halesowen, *the Breach*, nr. Bellbroughton, *the Bratch*, nr. Enville, and *the*

Bratches, in Norton Canes, are examples of the word. Birchills stands high, and was anciently within the bounds of Cannock Forest. The adjoining district to the E. is still called 'The Forest.'

Bishops Offley, *v.* Offley (Bishops).

Bishton, h., 2 m. NW. of Rugeley. D. *Bispestone*; 13 c. *Bissopestun*, *Bissopeston*. A. S. *biscop* (pr. bishop)—Bishop's town (*v.* Ton). We must not *therefore* conclude it was the residence of a bishop, as *Biscop* became a p. n. at an early period. In this case, however, the name is probably connected with the bishops of Lichfield, who were, in remote times, large local landowners, and had a residence at Bishton.

Black Halves, an ancient farm in Essington, 4 m. NW. of Walsall. *Halve*, *Haave*, *Have*, are dialectic forms of *Haw*, applied equally to the berries of the hawthorn, and to the tree itself (Eng. Dial. Dict. *s.* Haw). The right form would probably be *Black haaves* = black thorns.

Black Ladies, an ancient farm 2 m. W. of Brewood. 1327 *De Nigris Monialibus* (the Black Nuns); since *Black Ladies*. The house, now much altered, was formerly a Benedictine nunnery, founded in or prior to the 13 c., and suppressed temp. Henry VIII. They were called Black Ladies because they dressed in black, and as distinguished from the Cistercian nuns of White Ladies, 2 m. further W., who dressed in white.

Black Lees, an ancient farm 3 m. SW. of Cannock. 13 c. *le Blakele*; 15 c. *Blakelyes*, *Blackleys*. A. S. *blæc*, M. E. *blac*, *blak*, *blake*, dark, black. The farm is an old enclosure from Cannock Forest. Land covered with gorse and heath was locally called black land, as distinguished from cultivated land. *V.* Blake Street.

Blakelow, 2 m. W. of Stone. 1263 *Blakelow*; 1266 *Blakelowe*—the black low (burial-mound). *V.* Black Lees, and Low.

Blake Street, the name of an ancient road forming a portion of the boundary between the parishes of Shenstone and Sutton Coldfield, and the counties of Stafford and Warwick. 13 c. *Blakestret*; and the locality *Blakele, Blakeleye.* It is often supposed that 'street' indicates a Roman road, but it is only evidence of antiquity. In A. S. charters, highways which have no pretension to Roman origin are frequently termed 'stræt' (street). The country around Blake Street was heath ground until the middle of the last century. *Blake* = black, and the meaning is 'Black Street' (*v.* Black Lees). An ancient road called 'Blake Street,' once a portion of the great London and Chester road, now diverted, formerly extended over Cannock Chase, between Brownhills and Hednesford, and formed (its line still forms) a manorial boundary. In the year 1300 it is written *Blake streete*; in 1595 'Black street.' It was all wild land.

Blakenhall, h., 1 m. S. of Wolverhampton. **Blakenall,** h., 2 m. N. of Walsall. **Blakenhall,** nr. Christchurch-on-Needwood. Cf. Blakenhall, 5½ m. SE. of Crewe; Blakenall, nr. Lutterworth; Blakenham (2), in Suffolk. The earliest forms I have are 13 and 14 c. *Blakenhale* (numerous). The *en* is clearly a gen. addition, and possessive. *Blac* was an A. S. p. n., and if we could meet with an early form we should find it *Blac-en-hale*—the hall of Blac. The early A. S. had no *k*, *c* performing its functions. We have few English families of 'Black,' because a dark-complexioned man was frequently termed *Brūn* (brown); hence our many Browns; but the p. names *Blac*, *Blaca*, *Blæcca*, and *Blacman* are frequently met with in charters; and then the p. n., like *blæc* (colour), becomes *Blake* in M. E.; hence our fairly numerous Blakes, Blakeman, &c.

Blithbury, h., 3 m. NE. of Rugeley. 12 c. *Blitheburgh*, *Blithburie.* Is situate on the river Blithe = the burgh on the Blithe (*v.* Blithe and Bury).

Blithe or **Blythe,** river, affluent of Trent, is always

found in its present form, the *th* being occasionally represented by *d*. I think it must be A. S. *blithe*, which meant, originally, mild, gentle, but came to mean merry, brisk, alluding to the motion of the water in some part of its course. Many of our river names are poetical, and convey the sense of sound or motion. There are two rivers Blyth in Northumberland; a Blyth in N. Notts; another in E. Suffolk; a Blithe in N. Warwickshire; and many pl. names commencing *Blithe-* or *Blyth-* from their situation on or near these rivers.

Blithfield, 2 m. SW. of Abbots Bromley. D. *Blidevelt*. D. uses a medial *d* to represent a medial A. S. *th*, though it uses *th* as an initial letter; the *v* represents an A. S. *f*, so that we must read the D. form as *Blithefelt*. This means the field on the Blithe (*v.* Field).

Blore, 4 m. NW. of Ashbourne. D. *Blora*; afterwards *Blora* and *Blore*. The terminal *a* is commonly used in L. documents for an O. E. *e*, in order to give the name a latinized sound; we may assume *Blore* to be the correct form. The Rev. John Young, Rector of Blore, writes: 'Blore, physically, is a well-defined rising from the river Manifold, is partly circumscribed by that river, and rises very markedly from its margin with a north aspect, much exposed to the winds from that quarter.' A. S. *blāw* (*ā* = *o*) is our verb 'to blow'; and *blāwere* is 'one who blows.' Our A. S. dictionaries are yet imperfect. There must have been, before D., a word like *blāwere* or *blāre*, signifying a blast of wind, as it still exists in our language. *Blore*, though incapable of etymological explanation, means a blast, a roaring wind; *v.* H. E. D. and Century Dict.

> 'Like rude and raging waves roused with the fervent *blore*
> Of th' east and south winds.'—Chapman, Iliad, ii. 1222.

'Blore,' as a pl. n., is, I think, unique, but D. records a Cheshire manor, *Blorat*, which I have not been able to identify. There is also a h., 'Bloore,' 3 m. E. of Market Drayton; and

Blurton, in Trentham, was *Blorton* in the 12 c. I construe 'Blore' as meaning a place exposed to winds. It is not impossible that before D., Blore had a suffix (like Blorton), which has dropped off (*v.* Biddulph). PS. There are 'Blore Park,' 'Blore Pipe,' h., and 'Blore Pipe Wood,' 5 m. W. of Eccleshall; also 'Blore,' 'Blore Heath,' 'Blore Farm,' and 'Blore Dale,' 3 m. E. of Market Drayton, and 4 m. NW. of the first-mentioned Blores. (W. H. S. disapproves of the meaning attributed to Blore, and considers it 'very improbable.') I admit the construction is extraordinary, so is the name, and I can attach no other meaning to it.

Bloxwich, h., 2 m. NW. of Walsall. D. *Blocheswic*; 13 c. *Blockeswich, Blokeswych, Blokeswyke*; 14 c. *Blockeswich, Blakeswych, Blokkeswich, Bloxwych.* The terminal *wich* (q. v.) means a village, and the *es* is clearly a genitive possessive form, pointing to the p. n. *Blocc*, which would take *es* as its gen. In late A. S. charters, however, the gen. forms are often confused. In Cod. Dip. 278 we find *Bloccan leah*, Blocc's lea. With one exception, it will be noticed, all the forms have *o*, so that the evidence is against *blæc* or *blāc* having any part in the formation of the name. D. records *Blochelei, Blochesham* (3), *Blocheshorde* (*horde* represents *worth*), and this *Blocheswic*, so that it is, I think, clear that *Blocc* or *Blocca* was a p. n., and that Bloxwich means Blocc's (or Blocca's) village.

Blurton, h., 5 m. SE. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. 12, 13, and 14 c. always *Blorton.* I suggest this means 'the town of the Blore' (blast of wind), *v.* Blore. ('Very improbable.' W. H. S.)

Blymhill, 6 m. NE. of Shiffnal. D. *Brumhelle*; 12, 13, and 14 c. *Blumonhull*, repeatedly. D. is here astray; the later forms appear to be accurate. *Blum* or *Blom* does not appear to have been an A. S. p. n., though 'Blome' and 'Bloomer' are now family names. I think *Blum* here represents A. S. *Blōma* (*ō* = *oo*), M. E. *blume*, a bloom or mass of metal. In primitive times the 'bloom' was made

direct from the ore, not, as now, from the pig, and was charcoal iron, i.e. smelted with wood. A 'bloomery' or 'bloom smithy' was a forge or furnace where these blooms were made; and as vast quantities of wood were consumed, these works followed the woods. 'Forge Pool,' and 'Old Forge,' 2½ m. SW. of Blymhill, show that this has been at some time an iron-working locality. The ore would probably be obtained fromt he neighbourhood of Oakengates. I read Blymhill as meaning 'the hill of the bloomery.' There is no word in any A. S. dictionary for 'bloomery,' but there must have been such a word to describe a place where *Blōmas* (blooms) were made. The words 'Bloomery' and 'Bloom Smithy' are found in M. E. in iron-producing districts. The H. E. D. *s.* 'Bloom,' says: 'No examples of the word have been found between O. E. times and the end of the 16 c.' This is probably to be accounted for by the fact that iron-making was confined to very few localities where the ore cropped to the surface or was near at hand. *V.* Austrells, Bonehill, Smestow.

Bobbington, 3 m. NW. of Enville. D. *Bubintone*; 12 c. *Bobintune*. *Bobba, Bubba* was an A. S. p. n. The original form would be, say, *Bobbantūn* (*n* being the gen.)—Bobba's town. The gen. *an* frequently passes into *ing*, and is then mistaken for a patronymic form. In the Middle Ages the county assizes were occasionally held at Bobbington. It would be interesting to know how the judges, jurors, witnesses, &c., were accommodated.

Bonehill, h., 2 m. SW. of Tamworth. 13 and 14 c. *Bollenhull*, repeatedly. This, I think, is the correct form, and, assuming it to be so, and to be A. S., we must translate it 'the hill of the Boll.' In A. S. dictionaries *bolla* is given as 'a bowl,' but it had other meanings. We speak now of the bole (trunk) of a tree, of a bole of cotton. Or *boll* may be some dialectic word the origin of which is unknown. 'Bole hill,' in Derbyshire and the North, signifies a place where lead

(and doubtless other metals) was anciently smelted. 'These boles, which are identified by the piles of slag left by the ancient smelters, are supposed to have been built by simply placing stones around a central fire, and in situations where there would be likely to be a good draft, since no artificial blast was used' (Century Dict.; *v.* also H. E. D. and Eng. Dial. Dict., under 'Bole'). 'Close to the spot there was a *bole*, by which is meant a place where, in ancient times, miners used to smelt their lead ores' (Archæologia, vii. 170, 1785). There is no lead ore within thirty miles of Bonehill, but abundance of ironstone close to. I submit that Bonehill has the same meaning as 'Austrells' and 'Blymhill' (q. v.), and means 'the hill of the bole (or furnace).' 'When the Spaniards arrived in Peru they found the natives smelting the silver ores in furnaces built on eminences where the air was freest; they were perforated on all sides with holes, through which the air was driven in when the wind blew, which was the only time the work could be carried on, and under each hole was made a projection on which was laid burning coals (wood) to heat the air before it entered the furnace' (Scrivener's History of the Iron Trade). Sven Hedin (Through Asia, 1898) says: 'Five miles south of the village (in Chinese Mongolia) there is an iron-mine known as Kok-bainak. The ore occurs in strata of loose earth or clay, and is dug out and carried to Ighiz-yar to be smelted. Both the appliances and the process of extraction are of the most primitive description; the furnace being only about six feet high, with three feet interior diameter. It is housed in a little hut built of planks and sun-dried clay. After the furnace is half filled with charcoal, the ferruginous earths are thrown in, till they cover the charcoal to the depth of six or eight inches. The fuel is then lighted, and half a dozen men squat on their haunches in front of as many holes made near the bottom of the furnace, and blow into it with goat-skin bellows, in order to intensify the draught. They keep

up at that nearly all day long, from time to time examining, by means of an iron rod inserted through a hole in the side of the furnace, how the smelting is progressing. Towards evening the molten metal comes running out at the bottom of the furnace. After every burning the furnace of course requires to have the slag and ashes raked out, so that it may be clean and ready for a fresh batch of ore. One entire day's smelting yields 5 chäreck, which are sold in Yanghi-hissar for 30 tengeh (*6s. 8d.*). One chäreck is equal to 12 jing; and 1 jing equals 1½ Russian pounds or 1¼ pounds avoir. The owner of the furnace, the yuz-bashi (chief of one hundred men) or village chieftain of Ighiz-yar, manages the business himself, personally superintending the smelting, and paying each of his seven workpeople at the rate of only six da-tien a day; the da-tien being a Chinese bronze coin equal to less than half a farthing in value.' Our operations were once equally primitive.

Bosses (The), a tract of low-lying swampy land, containing about 200 acres, in Shenstone parish. It was formerly a morass, but is now mostly drained. The Roman Icknield Street passes over a portion of it called Radley Moor, and is there hard to trace, having apparently sunk into the bog. 12 c. *in bosco suo de Boshay* (read *Bosh-hay*). This is probably a M.E. name (none of its forms being found in A.S.) borrowed from O.F. *bosc*, *bosche*, L. *boscus*, a wood. It appears as *busk*, *bush*, *bosh*, *bosch*, and *bosshes* (pl.), meaning 'bushy or wooded land, a thicket.' The terminal *hay*, in the form quoted, has dropped off (*v.* Hay).

Bosty Lane, in the parishes of Rushall and Aldridge, part of an ancient cattle road between North Wales and London, takes its name from *Boltstyle*, *Bolestile*, a locality frequently mentioned in the perambulations of Cannock Forest and Sutton Chase as a 'mere' or boundary between them. It (Boltstyle) is also mentioned as, and still is, a boundary between Aldridge and Great Barr. The spot is close to

Hill End, 3 m. NE. of Walsall and on the northern ridge of Barr beacon hill. I take it to be A. S. *bold*, *botl*, a house, and *stig* (*g*=*y*), a path, road—'the way to the house.' It is not impossible that 'style' may represent A. S. *stigel* (*g* = *y*), M. E. *style*, a place of crossing, a 'stile.' The 'Boltstyle' was situate in an angle formed by cross roads, both of which are ancient thoroughfares, and never likely to have been foot-paths only. There is no house on the spot now, or any trace of one; but Hill End, hard by, is an ancient hamlet.

Bourne Vale, Aldridge. 1286 '*and thence as far as le Bolestile, and thence to the water called La Bourne, descending La Bourne to the high road near the park of Drayton* (Bassett).' A stream rises in Bourne Vale and falls into Tame, near Fazeley. From its source to its mouth it formed part of the boundary between Cannock Forest and Sutton Chase. A. S. *burn*, M. E. *bourne*, a stream. The South Staffordshire Waterworks have now drained Bourne Pool, and the stream runs no more.

Bradley, h., 1 m. SW. of Bilston. D. *Bradeley*; 13 c. *Bradele*; 14 c. *Bradeleye*. A. S. *brād* (*ā* = *oa*), broad—the broad lea (*v.* Ley). D. records over sixty manors commencing *Brade-*.

Bradley, 4 m. NW. of Stafford. D. *Bradeleia* (where the meaning is beyond question it is useless to multiply forms) 'The broad lea.' *V.* Bradley, nr. Bilston.

Bramshall, 2 m. W. of Uttoxeter. D. *Branselle*; 12 c. *Brumeshel*; 13 c. *Bromsholf*, *Bromsulf*. The forms are not easy to reconcile; but, taking them altogether, I think they point to an original A. S. form *Brumescylf* (*sc* = *sh*), Brum's shelf. A. S. *scylfe*, a shelf, in pl. names is sometimes applied to shelving land; but generally to table-land shelving on all or most sides; hence our numerous 'Shelfield,' generally found in M. E. as *Shelfhull*, shelfhill. *V.* Shelfield.

Brancot, h., in Tixall, 4 m. SE. of Stafford. 14 c. *Bromcote*, frequently. A. S. *brōm-cot*, broom-cot, literally 'the

cottage on the heath.' Tixall Heath was formerly a great waste adjoining Cannock Chase, and 'Brancot Gorse' still survives.

Branston, 2 m. SW. of Burton-on-Trent. 771 *Brentiston*; 978 *Brantestūn, Brantes tūne*; D. *Brantestone*; 12 c. *Brantestone*.—These forms give us, I think, the A.S. p. n. *Brand—Brand's'town* (*v.* Ton); *d* and *t* frequently interchange. I have not met with *Brant* as an A.S. p. n., and if found, unless in an early and pure charter, it would probably represent *Brand*, which was a common name.

Bratches (The), in Norton Canes, 2 m. SE. of Cannock. An ancient enclosure on Cannock Chase. Poll tax 1379, '*Ralph in the Birches.*' This means 'the new enclosure' (*v.* Birchills). The Bratch, The Bratches are common field names.

Brereton, h., 1 m. SE. of Rugeley. 13 c. *Breredon*; 14 c. *Breredon*, frequently. A.S. *brēr*, M.E. *brere*, brier, bramble, and A.S. *dūn*, M.E. *dun*, down (*v.* Don, a hill)—the briery hill. 'Brere' is not confined to briers, but includes brambles and thorns = a thicket.

Brettell, Brettell Lane, h., in Kingswinford, 2 m. NE. of Stourbridge. 1614 *Brettell*. The form is late, and only one; but I think it represents a pure p. n., probably A. S. *Brihtelm*. The Brettells are a well-known family in the locality, and have been settled there for centuries.

Brewood. D. *Brevde* (*v* = *u*); 12 c. *Breowude, Brewude*; 13 c. *Brewode*, frequently. *Bre* is one of the few Celtic prefixes which survive. In W. it means 'a hill or rising ground'; *Breiddon* Hill, 6½ m. NW. of Welshpool, probably being an example. In I. the form is *bri* (bree); exs. *Brigown*, co. Cork, the hill of the smith; *Bree*, the name of several places in Donegal, Monaghan, and Wexford; *Bray*, in Wicklow, and *Bray Head*, in Kerry. In G. it takes the form of *bra, brae, bray*, a hill or hill-side; exs. *Braemar*, the *Braes of Angus, Brae, Brayhead*, &c. The terminal is A. S. *wudu*, M. E. *wude, wode*, a wood. A name composed

of two languages is exceptional, but not rare. *Bredon*, in Worcestershire (A. S. *Breodūne*), is an example, and means 'hill hill, or hill down'; *Bredon-on-the-hill*, in Leicestershire, is probably another example. *Brill*, in Oxon. (A. S. *Brehull*), is another. We may safely conclude that Brewood means 'hill wood.' 'Brewood Forest' existed to the time of King John, who disafforested it.

Bridgford, h., in Seighford, 3½ m. NW. of Stafford. D. *Brigeford*; 13 c. *Bruggeford*. A. S. *brycg*, *bricg*, M. E. *brugge*, a bridge, and A. S. *ford*, a ford (q. v.)—Bridge ford.

Brierley, h., in Sedgley, 3 m. NE. of Dudley. 14 c. *Brerley*, *Brereley*. A. S. *brēr*, M. E. *brere*, means a brier, thorn, bramble. The word formerly had a more extended sense than it now carries, and included scrub and rough underwood. Brierley means literally 'the rough lea' (pasture), *v.* Ley. *Brier* and *brere* enter largely into the composition of pl. names.

Brineton, h., in Blymhill, 6 m. NE. of Shiffnal. D. *Brunitone*; 13 c. *Bruneton*, frequently. *Brūn*, brown, was a common A. S. p. n. This is Brown's town.

Brinsford, an ancient estate 4 m. N. of Wolverhampton. 994 *Brenesford*, *Brunsford*; 1227 *Bruneford*; 1300 *Brunesford*; 1381 *Bruynesford*. A. S. p. n. *Brūn*, brown—Brown's ford.

Bristnall, h., 2 m. E. of Smethwick. 13 c. *Brussenhulle*, several times. *Brusen* is an obsolete form of *bursten* and *burst*, and means 'burst, broken'; *brussen* is the p. p. of *brust* and a M. E. form of *byrst*, to burst; all from A. S. *brysan*; *brist* is also a M. E. form of the word. 'Earth-breach' and 'broken-hill' are sometimes mentioned in A. S. charters. They probably refer to landslips or subsidences. For authorities *v.* H. E. D. *s.* 'Bursten,' Eng. Dial. Dict. *s.* 'Brust,' Stratmann's M. E. Dict. *s.* 'Brust.' Bristnall means 'burst' or 'broken hill.'

Brocton, h., in Baswich, 4 m. SE. of Stafford. D. *Broc-*

tone. A. S. *brōc* (*ō* = *oo*), a brook—brook town (*v.* Ton). This is a common name sometimes, under dialectic influence, passing into Broughton. A. S. *broc* (*o* unaccented) means a badger, and some etymologists would construe this Badger town; but our A. S. forefathers thought far more of brooks than badgers. Here a brook runs through the middle of the vill. D. uses no accents, and they are frequently lacking in A. S. charters.

Brocton, estate, nr. Eccleshall (1½ m. N.). D. *Broctone.* Brook town; *v.* Brocton, in Baswich. The vill is situate on the Sow.

Brocton Grange, farm, 4½ m. SE. of Newport (in Sheriff Hales parish). D. *Broctone.* Brook town; *v.* Brocton, in Baswich. A stream passes through it.

Bromley (Abbots). 1004 *Bromleag, Bromlege*; D. *Brunlege*; 14 c. *Bromley Abbatis, Abbottes-Bromley, Pagettes-Bromley als Abbottes-Bromley.* A. S. *brōm*, M. E. *broom, brom*, broom (the plant, L. *genista*), and A. S. *leah*, gen. *leage*, M. E. *ley, leye, le*, &c.—the broomy lea. This manor was given by Wulfric Spott, Earl of Mercia, in 1004, to the Abbey of Burton. Hence 'Abbots.' On the dissolution of the monasteries Henry VIII granted it, with other manors, to Sir Wm. Paget, ancestor of the Pagets of Beaudesert; hence 'Paget's.' *Brom* enters very largely into the composition of pl. names.

Bromley (Gerrards), h., in Eccleshall. D. *Bramelie*; 15 c. *Bromley-in-halys.* For Bromley *v.* Bromley (Abbots). 'Gerrards,' because the Gerrards were its early lords for many generations. *In halys* (hales) means in the meadows; *v.* Hales.

Bromley (King's), 6 m. NW. of Lichfield. 942 *Bromlege, Bromle*; D. *Bromelei.* *V.* Bromley (Abbots). 'King's' because the manor belonged to the king at the time of D., and afterwards. A pretty story is told in the Staffordshire Plea Rolls for 1292 in a suit as to eleven acres of land here.

The jury found 'that King Henry Senior (i.e. Henry I, 1100–35) was chasing in the Forest of Cannock, and passing through the vill of *Kynges Brumley* (then within the Forest), he breakfasted with a certain tenant, the ancestor of Thomas (the plaintiff), and the tenant prayed the King to give him a piece of land in his (the King's) haye, and the King gave him a certain piece, estimated at eight acres, which the tenant enclosed, and his issue, the ancestors of Thomas, and Thomas himself, had ever since held it; and as to the remaining three acres it was outside the haye of the King (i.e. outside the Forest) and the ancestors of Thomas had held it time out of mind.'

Bromwich (West). D. *Bromwic* (under Northamptonshire); 12 and 13 c. *Bromwic*, *Bromwig*, *Bramwic*, *West Bromwich*, *West Bromwych*, *Bromwych*. A.S. *brōm-wic*, 'the village in the broom,' or 'on the heath'; *v.* Bromley (Abbots) and Wich. There was a large heath here at the beginning of the last century. 'West' is a mediaeval addition given to distinguish it from other Bromwichs. It is situate 6 m. W. of Birmingham, and 6 m. E. of Birmingham is Castle Bromwich.

Broughton, h., 6 m. NW. of Eccleshall. D. *Hereborge-stone*. Most Broughtons have been originally *Brōctūn*, and this is an interesting example of the importance of early forms. This is clearly *Hereburh's* (gen. *Hereburgē's*) town (*v.* Ton), *Hereburh* being a fem. A.S. p. n. *Hereburge-byrig* appears in Cod. Dip. 710 and 1298 (the foundation deed of Burton Abbey, and the will of Wulfric Spott), and Dugdale's Monasticon identifies it with Harbury, in Warwickshire, but it is more likely to represent this manor. The change of form here is remarkable.

Bucknall, h., in Stoke-on-Trent. D. *Buchenhole*; 13 c. *Bukenhale*, *Bokenhowe*; 14 c. *Buckenhale*. I do not doubt that the prefix represents the A.S. p. n. *Buca*, the *n* forming the gen.; but the terminals are conflicting; 'hole'

I assume to be A. S. *hol*, *holh*, a hollow; whilst *halė* may mean 'hall' or 'meadow-land' (*v.* Hale); so that whether this should be read Buca's 'hollow,' or 'hall,' or 'meadow-land,' must be doubtful until better forms are found.

Burntwood, h., 2 m. SW. of Lichfield. 16 c. *Brendwood*, *Brendewoode*, *Brandwood*. M. E. *brand*, *brent*, *brend*, burnt—Burntwood. Burntwood is in the parish of Hammerwich, formerly in Cannock Forest. In 1262 a Forest jury find 'a certain heath was burnt by the vills of Hammerwich, to the injury of the Kings game'; and Bishop Norbury's Register (1322–58) records, 'Le Cank chase set on fire; belongs to the See; the unknown offenders are to be banned.' This latter fire must have been within the manors of Cannock or Rugeley, which belonged to the bishop, and cannot refer to Burntwood. The fires on the Chase are still serious, and destructive to its timber, game, and beauty.

Burslem. D. *Barcardeslim*; 13 c. *Burwardeslyme*, *Borewardeslyme*. D. is at fault here; but the later forms are clear, and give us (in A. S.) *Burhweardes-hlimme*—Burhweard's stream. In the locality is a river Lyme (q. v.), tributary of Trent. To illustrate the chequered career of pl. names compare Burslem, Burwardesley in Cheshire, and Broseley in Salop. Burslem we have traced; Burwardesley is substantially what it was—'Burhweard's lea'; and Broseley is all that remains of the same original form.

Burston, h., 4 m. SE. of Stone. 12 c. *Burweston*; 13 c. *Burceston*, *Buregeston*, *Bureweston*; 14 c. *Bureston*, *Burweston*, frequently. D. records a Staffordshire manor, *Burouestone*, as in Offlow hundred, Burston being in Pirehill. The D. manor has not been identified, and Eyton (Staffs. D.) treats it as 'obsolete'; but I suspect it is a mistake to place it in Offlow, and that it represents Burston. There is no existing place in Offlow to which the D. form could possibly apply. The forms appear to represent an original A. S.

Burgstānestūn, Burgstan's town. The *g* here would become *w*, and then drop out, and the *tān* or *tūn* would fall out or off.

Burton, h., in Castlechurch, 2 m. S. of Stafford. D. *Burtone*, and afterwards the same form, clearly 'the burgh town' (*v.* Bury). There are ancient earthworks here which probably account for the name.

Burton-on-Trent. 1004 *Byrton*; 1066 *Byrtune*, *Byrtūne*, *Burhton* (? if this Burton); D. *Bertone*; 12 c. *Burhton*, *Berton*; 13 c. *Byrton upon Trent*. The forms are not satisfactory; it is curious to find *Byrton* and *Byrtune* in A. S. charters. *Byr* has no meaning in A. S., and I think it must represent a form of *burh*, gen. *burge*, dat. *byrig*. I incline to think *Burhton* the correct form, meaning, as commonly assumed, an enclosed or fortified place (*v.* Bury).

Bushbury, 2½ m. N. of Wolverhampton. 994 *Biscopesbry*; D. *Biscopesberie*; 12 and 13 c. *Bissopesbiri*, *Biscopesbiri*, *Bishbiri*, *Bischbury*, *Bissopeburi*. The village stands on an eminence. The root is clearly A. S. *biscop* (*sc* = *sh*), bishop. There is no evidence of a bishop having resided or held property here, and *Biscop* was a p. n., as Bishop is now. The 'natives' still pronounce it *Bishbiri*. The meaning is Bishop's bury (*v.* Bury); but whether *Bishop* represents a dignified ecclesiastic or a p. n. we cannot tell.

Bustleholme Mill, 3 m. S. of Walsall. An ancient mill on the Tame, formerly an ironwork. I have no early forms, and accept the modern one. The terminal is A. S. *holm*, a river island, or meadow. In the midlands the word is generally found in connexion with river-side land liable to flood, but here there is an island in the river. Nothing can be made of *bustl* in A. S., and I suggest it is a Celtic survival, of which there are several examples in the locality. In W. *bustl* means 'something bitter, as gall,' and *bustl y ddaiar* is the common centaury (*Chironia centaureum*). 'Centaury'

seems to include what are popularly known as bachelors' buttons, star thistle, blawort, and loggerheads, which flourish on wet land.

Butterhill, h., in Coppenhall, 3 m. SW. of Stafford. 12 c. *Buterhale*; 13 c. *Buterales*, *Buterhale*, *Butrehale*. For 'Butter' *v.* Butterton. 'Hill' is clearly wrong, and I construe *hale* as a form of *healh*, meadow-land (*v.* Hale)—meaning Butter meadow or meadows.

Butterton, h., 6 m. E. of Leek. **Butterton,** h., 3 m. S. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. I have difficulty in distinguishing these two Buttertons in the forms, and therefore take them together. 12 c. *Botertun*, *Buterton*, *Buterdon*; 1200 *Buterdon*, *Boterdon*; 1201 *Buterdon*; 1223 *Butterdon*, *Buterden*, *Buterdon*; 13 c. *Botredon*; 14 c. *Butterton*. The terminals are conflicting, and it is difficult to say if we should read them *dūn*, a hill, or *tūn*, a town. The prefix is clearly A. S. *butere*, M. E. *butere*, *boter*, *butre*, butter. I think it safer to construe the name 'Butter town' (a *tūn*, or enclosure, where cows were kept and butter made) than Butter 'hill,' as being more likely. There are seven 'Butterwicks' in England, which, without investigation, I should construe 'Butter village'; and we have a 'Butterworth' (Butter farm) and several 'Butterleys.' Chiswick, nr. London, is 'Cheese village'; Cheswardine, in Salop, is 'Cheese farm.' Our A. S. forefathers had their hearts in their homes and farms.

Caldon, h., 8 m. NE. of Cheadle. 1004 *Celfdun*; D. *Caldone*. The A. S. form gives us a plain key—A. S. *celf*, *cealf*, a calf, and *dūn*, hill—Calf hill.

Calf Heath, in Hatherton, 3 m. W. of Cannock. 994 *Calfre heie*, Calves hedge. It has since been known as 'Calf Heath,' being formerly a vast moor, part of Gailey Hay, one of the hays, or bailiwicks, of the Forest of Cannock, enclosed about 1830.

Callingwood, h., in Tatenhill, 4 m. SW. of Burton-on-

Trent. 13 c. *Calyngewode*, *Chalengwode*; sometimes in L. deeds *Boscum calumpniatum*, meaning a wood challenged or in dispute; 16 c. *Challengewood*. This is O. F. *chalonge*, *calenge*, M. E. *chalenge*, *calenge*, to challenge, claim. Sometimes the word *Threap* is used to describe 'debatable' land (A. S. *threapian*, to assert, contest); Threapland, in W. Cumberland, and Threapwood, in W. Cheshire, are examples. Callingwood was within the bounds of the Forest of Needwood. The first record of the name I have met with is in 1280, so that the dispute, of which I know no particulars, must have arisen before then, but probably after the Conquest, because of the French root.

Callow Hill, 1½ m. N. of Blithfield. 13 c. *Caluhull*, *Kalewhull* (3); 14 c. *Kalughulle* (2). A. S. and M. E. *calu*, bald, bare; A. S. *hyll*, M. E. *hull*, hill—the bald, or bare, hill. Callow Hill is a common name, and we have Callow, a parish 2 m. SW. of Wirksworth; another 4 m. S. of Hereford; and Callow, in Worcestershire. We speak of unfledged birds, and of beardless youths, as 'callow.'

Cank Thorn, on Cannock Chase beside Huntingdon belt, marks the bounds of the manors of Teddesley, Baswich, and Cannock. 13 c. *Naughmarethorn* (? Haugh-mere-thorn); 1595 *Canck Thorne*, *Cannock Thorne*. The ancient thorn decayed, and the present one, a blackthorn, was planted on its site in the early part of the 18 c. Thorns are frequently mentioned in A. S. and mediaeval charters as boundary marks, and many of them have acquired the name of 'Hoarthorn,' as boundary stones have acquired the name of 'Hoar-stone,' frequently corrupted to 'War-stone.'

Cannock. D. *Chenet*; 12 c. *Cnot*, *Canot*, *Chenot*, *Chnot*, *Canhot*, *Canoc*; circa 1130 *Chnoc*; 13 c. *Canok*, *Canokbury*, *Kannock*; 15 c. *Cank*. This is a Celtic name which apparently upset the D. scribe; and the Pipe Rolls, probably from respect to D., are led astray. The most accurate form is that of 1130, *Chnoc*. Towards the close of his

reign, Henry I was at Cannock, doubtless hunting, and executed a charter to Robert Marmion, of Tamworth, which is tested at *Chnoc.* The correct form should be *Cnoc*, good I. and G. for 'a hill, a high place'; in W. it is *cnwc.* In Ireland innumerable pl. names now commence 'Knock,' which in native forms are *Cnoc.* The same observation applies to Scotland, but in a minor degree, and to some extent also to Wales. The examples are rare in England; Knockin, in Salop, means little hill; and Knockholt, in Kent, without investigation, I should construe Hill Wood. The situation of Cannock, and of the Chase around it, is very high. One would think from the varied way in which our mediaeval ancestors spelt pl. names that the spelling was of no importance; but, occasionally, sharp lawyers turned errors to advantage. In 1313 Robert of Huntyndon (Huntington) sued the Bishop of Lichfield for depriving him of common of pasture in 'Canok.' The bishop pleaded that the vill was called 'Cannok,' and not 'Canok,' 'and, as Robert could not deny that, the suit was dismissed.' The Staffordshire Plea Rolls contain many instances of these tricky objections, which even a bishop was apparently not ashamed of. ('The forms are not really difficult. D. and O.F. scribes represent A. S. *cn* (i.e. *k-n* with the *k* pronounced) by *chen*, pronounced *ken* (*cen* they would pronounce *chen*). Thus *cnut* is *chenut* in D., *cnap* is *chenap*, *cniht* is *chenistre*, &c. The forms ending in *t* should be read *c*; the letters are indistinguishable, except in D., where it is a mistake in copying.' W. H. S.)

Canwell, 5 m. SW. of Tamworth. Not in D.; 12 c. *Canewelle*; later *Canewall, Canwalle, Kanewall, Kanewell, Canwell, Canwelle, Canewelle.* The terminal is doubtless A. S. *wiell, wella, wylle*, M. E. *welle*, a spring. There was a priory here, founded about 1150, dedicated to St. Mary, St. Giles, and All Saints; and also a spring, called St. Modwen's Well, which Plot (Hist. of Staffs.) says was aluminous,

and 'famous for unaccountable cures of divers ailes and weaknesses.' *Cane* was an A. S. p. n.; and St. Cain or Keyne survives in Cainsham, otherwise Keynsham, 5 m. SE. of Bristol, where the church is dedicated to her. But here the possessive *s* is absent in every form, and the dedication of the priory and spring to other saints is also opposed to any reference to St. Cain. It may be suggested that it is W. *can*, *cain*, white, beautiful, clear—clear spring; but the combination of two languages in one word, though it sometimes occurs (*v.* Brewood), is exceptional. In A. S. *canne* meant 'any vessel or receptacle for holding water or other liquid,' and not one made of tin, as now. It even included 'a vessel for drawing water, a bucket,' and an A. S. glossary translates it 'crater, vel canna, L.,' which would allow a more extensive meaning. It may be in one of these senses that we find the word in connexion with *well*.

Car, Carr. This name is found only in the moorland district of the N. of the county. It is unquestionably O. N., and only used in localities inhabited by the Norsemen. It is common in the eastern parts of Lincolnshire, almost every manor having its 'Carr.' It means a marsh, wet moor, or boggy copse. The existence of Norse names in the Staffordshire moorlands, and in no other part of the county, leads to the inference of an early settlement there by Northern men.

Casterne, h., in Ilam. 1004 *Coetesthyrne* and *Cœtesthyrne* (same charter); 13 c. *Casterne.* The terminal is A. S. *thyrne*, a thorn (tree). The possessive *es* points to *Coet* or *Cœt*, as representing a p. n., but I am not able to verify it. I read this as 'Coet's thorn.'

Castle Rings, in Beaudesert Park, 5 m. NE. of Cannock. A circular double-ditched British fort, covering about eighteen acres, on the highest part of Cannock Chase. Entrenched forts, and even tumuli, are commonly called 'Castle.' Here, within the enclosure, are the foundations of a Norman castle,

of which there is no record, and which probably never proceeded beyond foundations. There are several 'Castle Rings' in the Midlands.

Catshill, nr. Brownhills, 5 m. NE. of Walsall. 13 c. *Cutteslowe*; 14 c. *Catteslowe*; 15 c. *Catteslowe alias Cattshill.* There is a tumulus here (on the S. side of the old Chester road), which has been cut through in making the adjoining canal. Part of the spoil from the cutting has been placed against the tumulus, greatly defacing it. A few scrubby oaks cover the surface. The mound forms the boundary of the manors of Walsall, Ogley Hay, and Little Wyrley, and stands near the foot of the western slope of Shire Oak Hill. I construe the name as *Catt*, gen. *Cattes*, burial-ground (*v.* Low). It must not be inferred that *Catt* was buried here. I believe all tumuli to be prehistoric, having never met with any evidence of their construction by Anglo-Saxons after their conversion to Christianity. It is more likely that the mound marked the limit of Catt's property, or that he lived near it. *Catt* in A. S. also means a cat, but I think it highly improbable the word can be used in that sense in connexion with a burial-mound.

Caverswall, 5 m. SE. of Stoke. D. *Cavreswelle*; 12 c. *Chavereswelle* (*ch* = *c* hard). The terminal is A. S. *wiell*, M. E. *welle*, a spring. I doubt if the prefix represents a p. n., as I have not met with one anything like it. *Cafer* (there was no *v* in A. S.) is only found in compound with *tūn* (*cafer-tun*), and is then translated 'a hall, court, or mansion.' There is a moated site here, called Caverswall Castle, which may have succeeded some A. S. dwelling. Caversfield and Caversham in Oxon. have probably a similar root to Caverswall. I am unable to define the meaning.

Chadsmoor, h. on Cannock Chase, 2 m. NE. of Cannock. The manors of Cannock and Rugeley belonged to the bishops of Lichfield, I think, before the Conquest to the time of Henry VIII. Henry wrested them from the then bishop,

and gave them to his favourite, Thomas, Lord Paget. The north-western boundary of Cannock manor, adjoining Teddesley, is marked by a deep, broad trench, called in ancient deeds 'the fosse of the Blessed St. Chad,' the patron saint of Lichfield Cathedral. The bishops or monks doubtless cut the fosse, and so named it. A gate called St. Chad's Gate stands on the fosse. The adjoining moor was called Chad's Moor before any houses were built upon it.

Chapel Chorlton, 6 m. NW. of Eccleshall. D. *Cerletone*; (*c* = *ch*). The original form would be *Ceōrlestūn* or *Ceōrlatūn*, 'the churl's town'; a *ceōrl* (churl) being a free husbandman, as distinguished from a serf, and not a 'boor,' as we now understand the word. But there is an insoluble difficulty; *Ceorl* was a common p. n. (Ger. *Karl*, and our *Charles*), often borne by people of rank, and it is impossible to say whether *ceōrl* is here used as a p. n. or as an occupation. Chapel is a M. E. addition. Pl. names commencing *Chorl-*, *Charl-*, and *Carl-* are very numerous. In Mercian dialect the *c* is pronounced *ch*; in the N. and E., under Norse influence, it becomes hard, as in Carlton; *ceaster*, a fortress, in Mercia becomes *chester*; in the N. and E. *caster*. Dialect plays a very important part in pl. names. What would be right S. of Yorkshire may be wrong N. of Derbyshire and on the E. coast.

Charnes, 4 m. NW. of Eccleshall. D. *Cervernest* (*c* = *ch*); 12 c. *Chavernesse*; 1227 *Chaunes*; 13 c. *Chavernes*, *Charneves*, *Charneles*, *Chaunes*, *Chavernesse*. This name is pr. 'Charns.' The prefix I do not doubt is A. S. *ceafer*, a beetle, (cock)-*chafer*. The D. terminal is plainly A. S. *nest*, a nest; the later forms point to A. S. *næss*, *ness*, a promontory, headland, also an abyss, chasm, cave. I cannot identify *Ceafer* (Chaffer) as an A. S. p. n.; it may have been one, as the family name 'Chaffers' is not uncommon; but the possessive *s* is absent. A pl. n. having any relation to a beetle or (cock)-chafer seems unlikely, yet we find *Ceaforleahe* in

a Worcestershire charter (Cod. Dip. 570), and *Ceaforleage* in a Hampshire charter (Cod. Dip. 1088). I cannot identify these places, but they certainly mean 'Chafer-lea.' I think it unlikely that any pre-D. form of Charnes exists, and the meaning of the name, with present materials, must be considered unsettled.

Chartley, 5 m. SW. of Uttoxeter. D. *Certelie*; 12, 13 and 14 c. *Certelea*, *Certeley* (*c*=*ch*). I cannot identify *Certe* or *Ceort* (Chert) as a p. n., but I feel sure it was one, as in A. S. charters we find *Certæcer*, Cert's field; *Certham*, Cert's home; *Ceortan stapol*, Ceort's pole or stone; *Certesig*, *Ceortesige*, Cert's island. *Certe* or *Ceort* has no meaning in A. S. except as a p. n. I construe this as Ceort's (Chert's) lea (pasture or untilled land); *v.* Ley. (In M. E. *er* was pr. *ar*.)

Chasepool, 2 m. W. of Kingswinford. D. *Catespelle*; 13 c. *Chacepol*; 16 c. *Chaspell*. This D. manor has been assumed by Erdeswick, and even by Eyton (Staffordshire), to be Gospel End in Sedgley, without any evidence to support the assumption. General Wrottesley (Salt Arch. Coll., xi. 253) put the matter right in 1890. Chasepool, now only known as a lodge, was situate in Kinver Forest. The word 'chase' may be dismissed from consideration, as it is O. F., and was not used here before the end of the 13 c. The D. *Cates* probably represents the A. S. p. n. *Catt* or *Catte* (*v.* Catshill), and *pelle*=*pulle*, apparently an unaccented form of A. S. *pōl*, a pool—Catt's pool. I am not aware whether any pool exists here now, but, as Chasepool lies on the Smestow, it is not unlikely there was one.

Chatcull, $4\frac{1}{4}$ m. NW. of Eccleshall. D. *Ceterville*; 12 c. *Chatculne*, *Chatkull*; 13 c. *Chachull*, *Chatchull*, *Chatculne*. The D. *ville* is certainly a mistake, that word being O. F., and not introduced here till long after the Conquest. I suggest that *Chat* represents *Chad* (*v.* Chatterley), and *culne*, A. S. *cyln*, M. E. *culne*, a kiln—'Chad's kiln,' perhaps a lime-kiln.

Chatterley, h., 3½ m. NE. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. 13 c. *Chadderlegh, Chaddendelle.* There can be no doubt that the prefix represents the A. S. p. n. *Ceadd* or *Ceadda* (variant forms). If *Ceadd* is the form used, the gen. is *Ceaddes*; if *Ceadda*, then *Ceaddan*, which may account for the *n* in the latter form. *Cead* = *Chad*, and the first form points to Chad's lea (*v.* Ley); the second to Chad's dell (dale). *Dell* is not generally recognized as an A. S. word (I think it was one); but it is allowed to be M. E., and as the forms are M. E., we might accept it. Changes of terminal are not unfrequent, and the change of *Chadd-* to *Chatt-* is regular, *d* and *t* being commonly interchanged.

Chatwell (Great), Chatwell (Little), hamlets, 5 m. SE. of Newport. 12 c. *Chattewelle*; 14 c. *Chatewalle*; 16 c. *Little Chatwall.* There is a spring here called Chad's Well, formerly in repute, and probably dedicated to the patron saint of Lichfield Cathedral. The terminals *welle* and *wall* are often interchanged in M. E. forms.

Cheadle. D. *Celle* (pr. *chell*); 1166 *Chelle*; 1192 and 1194 *Chedele*; 13 c. *Chedle, Dogge-Chedle, Dogge-Chedile.* There is a Cheadle in Cheshire (1194 *Chedle*). I think a p. n. is represented here; *Ceadel* (pr. *chadl*) is the nearest approach I can suggest, but with such varying early forms there can be no certainty. The 13 c. prefix *Dogge-* is curious; I cannot account for it.

Chebsey, 2 m. W. of Eccleshall. D. *Cebbesio* (*c* = *ch*); 12 c. *Chèblesey. Ceobba* was an A. S. p. n., and *Ceob* a short form of it. The terminal is A. S. *ieg* (*ea*), an island, or place near water. In pl. names it takes the forms of *ea* as in Batters-ea, or *ey* as in Aldern-ey. Chebsey lies on the Sow.

Checkley, 3¼ m. SE. of Cheadle. D. *Cedla*; 1227 *Chekkesleye, Checkele.* I distrust D. here, and believe in the later forms. *Cec, Cecce, Cæc* (all pr. *check*, and mere variants), was an A. S. p. n. We may safely read this as Cecce's lea

(*v.* Ley). Exs.: Checkley, Herefordshire; Checkley, Cheshire; Checkley, Essex.

Cheddleton, 3½ m. SW. of Leek. D. *Celtetone*; 1200 *Chetilton*; 1204 *Cheteleton*; 13 c. *Cheteltun*; 14 c. *Chetelton*. The terminal is A. S. *tūn*, town (*v.* Ton); the prefix is difficult. It may be an A. S. p. n. *Ceadel* (*c* = *ch*), which implies an original medial *d*, becoming *t*, and reverting to *d*; but those letters were so commonly interchanged that it would not be extraordinary. I should take *Ceadel* to be a late or short form of the better-known name *Ceadwal*, *Ceadwala*.

Chell, 2 m. N. of Burslem. 1313 *Ceolegh*. A. S. p. n. *Ceol* (pr. *chell*), Ceol's lea (*v.* Ley). The terminal has dropped off, a not uncommon occurrence where the accent upon it is slight. 'Ceol' was a common p. n., and also forms the prefix to many compound names; hence a large number of pl. names commence *Chel-*, and *Chell* is a not uncommon family name in N. Staffordshire.

Cheslyn Hay, h., 2 m. SW. of Cannock. 13 c. *Chistlyn* (frequently), *Chistling*, *Chyslin*, *Cheslyn*, *Chystlyn*, all with 'the hay of' before the forms. This was one of the hays of the Forest of Cannock. I think *chist* represents A. S. *cist* (pr. *chist*), M. E. *chiste*, *chyst*, a chest, one of the meanings of which was a coffin. This sense prevailed to modern times. Chaucer writes: 'he is now deed and nayled in his *chest*'; and Pennant writes, 1772: 'a stone chest, formed of five flat stones.' The *chest* referred to in the name I should expect to be some prehistoric cromlech. The locality is high land, very likely to have been used for ancient burial. The terminal *ling* I take to be a diminutive (as in duckling, bantling, darling, &c.), and therefore construe the name 'the hay of the little chest' (stone sepulchre). For the meaning of 'Hay' *v.* Hay.

Chestalls, h., in Longdon, nr. Rugeley. 16 c. *Chestals*. The terminal, having no meaning, is clearly corrupt. I assume the A. S. form to have been *Ciesthyll* (Chesthill), and the

M. E. form *Chist-* or *Chesthull*, the hill of the chest (stone coffin or cromlech); *v.* Cheslyn Hay. There was formerly a Shropshire manor, nr. Tern hill, named Chesthull, now obsolete. There are prehistoric earthworks (Castle Rings) nr. Chestalls, but no traces or tradition of a cromlech.

Chesterfield, h., in Shenstone, 2½ m. SW. of Lichfield. 1262 *Cestrefeud, Chestrefewde.* A. S. *cestre* (*c* = *ch*), a fortress, castle (generally applied to Roman towns), and A. S. *feld*, M. E. *felde, feud*, a field, open plain—the castle field. Chesterfield lies half a mile below and S. of Wall (Roman *Etocetum* or *Letocetum* on Watling Street). The lands immediately above Chesterfield are called Castle Croft, and contain Roman remains. Nearly all places beginning or ending *chester* have been Roman.

Chillington, 2½ m. SW. of Brewood. D. *Cillentone*; 12 c. *Cildenton*; 14 c. *Chilinton.* A. S. p. n. *Cille, Cilla* (*c* = *ch*), and *ton*, a town—Cille's town; the medial *n* in the forms is the gen. addition, which frequently passes into *ing*. Great care is needed to discriminate between these corrupt genitives and the patronymic or possessive *ing*. Chillington in Somerset, and Chillington nr. Crewkerne, are both *Cilletone* in D.; and we have Chillingham, Chilworth, Chillenden, probably all from the p. n. *Cille*.

Chorley, h., 3 m. W. of Lichfield. 14 c. *Chorley*; 16 c. *Chorley, alias Charley.* This means 'the churl's lea,' *or* 'Ceorl's lea' (from A. S. p. n. *Ceorl*; *c* = *ch*). *V.* Chapel Chorlton.

Chuckery Fields, Walsall. 13 c. *Chirche-greve, Chirche-grevefeld*—Church grove field. This is an example of extreme corruption (Professor Skeat objects to that word, and says the change is in accordance with phonetic law). Before the suppression of the monasteries the fields belonged to one of the guilds attached to the parish church at Walsall.

Churchbridge, h., 1½ m. S. of Cannock. 1538 *a pasture*

called Chirchebrigge, in Norton Canes. The land adjoining the bridge belonged to a Lichfield guild, afterwards suppressed. The bridge carries Watling Street; and it is not unlikely the guild built or rebuilt it, the main road from Lichfield to Shrewsbury and other parts passing over it. There is no church here.

Church Eaton, *v.* Eaton (Church).

Churnet, river, N. Staffordshire, affluent of the Dove. 1284 *Chirnete*. One's first impulse is to assign the prefix to A.S. *cirn*, *cyrin* (*c* = *ch*), and the terminal to the M.E. (perhaps A.S.) diminutive *ete*; though 'little churn' would be a curious name to apply to a river. The probability is that the name is not A.S., but pre-Roman. There is a river Churn in E. Gloucestershire, appearing in A.S. charters as *Cirn-ea* (*ea*, river) and *Cyrne* (*c* = *ch*), giving name to N. Cerney, S. Cerney, and Cirencester, all situate upon it. The Roman name of Cirencester was *Corinio*, doubtless a latinized form of the then river name. The A.S. must therefore have borrowed the name of the river (and of Cirencester, so far as the prefix goes) from the Romans, adapting the form to their own language. There is a river *Cerne* in Mid Dorset, giving name to Cerne Abbas, Nether-Cerne, and Up Cerne, all upon it. The name appears in A.S. charters as *Cirne* and *Cyrne* (pr. *chirne*), but in Southern dialect the *c* has softened. The meaning of Churnet, and the other names referred to, could only be dealt with by some one skilled in O.W.

Clayhanger, h., 4 m. N. of Walsall. 1300 *Cleyhunger*; later *Cleohongre*, frequently. This is a common name, e.g. Clayhanger, NE. Devon; Clayhanger, S. Somerset (parishes); and several hamlets so named. The prefix represents A.S. *clæg*, clay, or *clæig*, clayey, and the terminal A.S. *hangra*, a hanging wood, i.e. a wood on a slope or declivity. A.S. dictionaries translate *hangra*, a meadow, but they are wrong (*v.* Crawford Charters, Napier and Stevenson, 134). The

meaning of this name is therefore 'the clayey hanging wood.' There is a great deposit of red marls here, and a sloping bank, still sparsely timbered.

Clayton Griffith, h., 1¾ m. S. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. D. *Claitone*; 13 c. *Clayton Griffyn.* The Griffyns were its lords in the 13 c. Doubtless A. S. *clæg* (*g* = *y*), clay—Clay town.

Clifton Camville, 5½ m. NE. of Tamworth. About 1100 *Cliftun*; D. *Clistone.* The D. *s* is clearly a mistake for *f*, those A. S. letters being much alike. The plain meaning is 'the Cliff town.' The church and village stand on a small eminence in a plain. In A. S. *clif*, which in declension or M. E. becomes *clive*, *cleve*, *cleves*, &c., plays a great part in pl. names, and means a hill, high or low, precipitous or otherwise. The Camville family were Norman lords of the manor for several generations. They took their name from Canappeville (Département de l'Eure, in Normandy), which sometimes appears in ancient records as Campville.

Clive, h., 5½ m. W. of Wolverhampton. 1327 *Clive.* This is A. S. *clif*, M. E. *clive*, a hill. The hamlet is situate at the foot of a ridge. *V.* Clifton Camville.

Clock Mill, a common name for an old corn mill. There is a 'Clock Mill' and 'Clock Mill brook' in Pelsall. The right form is 'Clack,' i. e. the clapper, which by striking the hopper caused the corn to be shaken into the millstones. The word, in this sense, is probably now obsolete, the old process having been superseded by modern machinery. The 'clappe or *clakke* of a mill' is found in Prompt. Parv., circa 1440; Hollyband's Treasury of the French Tongue, 1580, translates *Claquet de Moulin*, the *clacke* or clapper of a mill; and in 1708 we read: 'The Miller's *Clacks* and the Lawyer's *Clacks* are in perpetual motion.' The word 'clack' is still retained in mechanics—e. g. 'clack'-valve, 'clack'-box; and 'clack-mill' is still applied to a windmill-rattle for scaring birds.

Cloud is a word used in N. Staffs, but not in the South. Exs.: Cloud house, Cloud side, Thorpe Cloud. It is A. S. *clūd* (*ū*=*ou*), M. E. *clode*, *clude*, *cloud*, a mass of rock, a hill. It is the same as Mod. Eng. cloud (of the sky), but used in a different sense.

Clough. A common name in the N. Staffordshire moorlands, but unknown S. of Stone. Exs.: Pye Clough, Clough Head, Ravens Clough, Out Clough, Hollins Clough, Oaken Clough, Wren Clough, Colclough, Hell Clough, Bull Clough, &c. It means a ravine or narrow valley, with steep sides, usually forming the bed of a stream. The old pronunciation was as in 'bough,' but in modern dialect it has become 'cluff.' In the N. of England, where the word is common, the forms and pronunciation are *cleuch* and *clowe*. The word is not admitted to be A. S., and is probably of Norse origin, as it has never been found in any A. S. document, and is confined to the Northern counties.

Cocknage, h., in Trentham, N. Staffs. 1194 *Cokenache*. The terminal is M. E. *ache*, *oke*, *ake*, oak (tree). I think *Coc*, or *Cocca*, was an A.S. p. n., because we find *Cocbroc* and *Coccanburh* as A.S. pl. names; but I have not met with *Coc* or *Cocca* alone as an A. S. name. After the Conquest *Coc* and *Cok* became common p. names. The *n* would be the gen. addition, and we may read this as Cok's oak. In A. S. and M. E. *coc* is a cock, and *cōc* a cook; as accents dropped off it becomes difficult to say whether 'John le Cok' should be read John the Cock, or John the Cook.

Codsall, 4 m. NW. of Wolverhampton. 12 c. *Coddeshal*; 13 c. *Codeshale*; later *Codeshale*, *Codeshall*. *Code* (also spelt *Coda* and *Codda*) was an A. S. p. n., and Codsall means Code's hall (*v.* Hale). A prefix in gen. form, being possessive, is evidence of a p. n.

Cold Norton, *v.* Norton (Cold).

Colton, 2 m. N. of Rugeley. D. *Coltone*, *Coltune*; afterwards regularly *Colton*. There are seven Coltons in England,

and many names commencing *Col-*. *Cole, Coll, Colla*, was an A. S. p. n.; but the possessive *s* is lacking in all the forms. *Col* is only to be found in A. S. as meaning 'coal'—not mineral coal, but 'wood for burning,' 'charcoal.' Sea coal, as earth coal was termed, was almost unknown before the Conquest. Charcoal was exclusively employed in smelting, and largely for domestic purposes. I see no reason therefore why a locality where charcoal was produced should not be called *Coltūn* (as the form is found in A. S. charters). On the continent *col* is commonly used for a mountain pass, e. g. *Col* du Balme, *Col* du Géant, *Col* du Bonhomme, *Col* de Tenda. In W. *col* signifies a sharp hill, peak, headland; in Manx *koll* is a top, summit. In G. and I. *coll* is 'a head, the neck'; in Cornish 'the hinder part of the neck, the ridge or neck of a hill.' I have suggested to an eminent philological friend that *Col*, though in compound with an A. S. terminal, may be a Celtic survival; but his judgement is, 'Impossible.' 'Colton' and 'Walton,' though common, and apparently simple names, are difficult to construe.

Colwich, 3 m. NW. of Rugeley. 1166 *Calewich*; 13 c. *Colewich, Colwych*, frequently. The terminal is A. S. *wic* (wich), a village. For *Col v.* Colton. The church and village lie in a plain at the foot of the high range forming Cannock Chase.

Comberford, 2 m. NW. of Tamworth. 12 c. *Cumbreford*. A. S. *cumb*, a valley, hollow among hills, of which *cumbra* is the gen. pl., and *ford*—the ford of the valleys. There are two valleys here, one near the hall, the other near the village and mill. The Tame river runs by. *Combe*, a form of *cumb*, is a common word for valleys in the S. of England, but rare in the Midlands.

Combridge, h., on the Churnet, 4 m. NE. of Uttoxeter. 13 c. *Combruge*, frequently. The terminal is a M. E. form of *brugge, brigge* (A. S. *brycg*), a bridge. The prefix probably represents A. S. *cumb, comb*, a valley—Valley bridge.

Compton, h., 2 m. W. of Wolverhampton. D. *Contone*;

14 c. *Cumpton, Comptone.* The D. *n* is not a slip for *m*; that record registers thirty-two manors as *Contone*, which should have been *Comtone*. The Norman scribes would pronounce *Comtone* contone, as the French still pronounce *Comte* conte. This is plain A. S. *cumb, comb*, a hollow, valley, and *ton* (q. v.)—the town in the hollow. The vill lies in a hollow.

Congreve, h., 1 m. SW. of Penkridge. D. *Comegrave*; 13 c. *Cunegrave, Cumgrave.* The terminal is A. S. *grāf*, a grove, small wood. The prefix perhaps represents A. S. *comb*, a valley—the grove in the valley—but the forms are all in conflict.

Cooksland, h., in Seighford, 3 m. NW. of Stafford. D. *Cuchesland. Cuc, Cuca*, was, I think, an A. S. p. n. Though unrecorded, it is found in composition in A. S. charters as *Cuceshamm* (Cuxham, in Oxon.) and *Cucanhealas* (Cuc's meadows). Here the possessive *es* points to a p. n., and I think we may read this as Cuc's land.

Coppenhall, 3 m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Copehale*; 12 c. *Coppenhale.* The later form, which is the most trustworthy, gives us 'the meadow-land of Coppa.' The correct A. S. form would be *Coppanhale*, *n* being the gen. addition. *Copp*, of which *Coppa* is a declension, is our modern 'cup,' and is now probably represented in the family name 'Cope.' Coppenhall, in W. Cheshire, is *Copehale* in D., but *Copenhale* in subsequent records.

Coseley, 3 m. SE. of Wolverhampton. From 1357 to 1664 the forms are *Colseley, Coulsley, Colsley* (repeated), afterwards *Coseley.* The gen. (possessive) *s* points to a p. n., and I read this as Cole's lea (*v.* Ley). *Cole, Col, Cola*, was an A. S. p. n.

Cotes, 4 m. NE. of Eccleshall. D. *Cota. Cota* is a latinized form of *cote*, the dat. sing. of A. S. *cot*, a cottage. D. records *Cota* (2), *Cote* (8), and *Cotes* (20), all declensions or forms of the same word.

Coton, h., 1 m. NE. of Stafford. D. *Cote*; 12 c. *Cotes*. *Cotan* is a plural form of A. S. *cot*, a cottage. The meaning of Coton is therefore 'cottages'; it is a common name.

Coton Clanford, h., 3 m. W. of Stafford. D. *Cote*. *V.* Coton. *Clanford* is not, as one might suppose, the name of an early lord; but, like Coton, is a hamlet in Seighford. It is A. S. *clæne*, *clāne*, clean, pure, clear; and *ford*—the clean ford; it is situate on a tributary of the Sow.

Coton Hayes, h., in Milwich, 6 m. E. of Stone. D. *Cote*. *V.* Coton and Hay. Original meaning 'cottage'; now 'the cottage enclosures.'

Cotwalton, h., 2 m. NE. of Stone. About 1004 *Cotewaltune*; D. *Cotewoldestune*, *Codewalle*; 12 c. *Codewalton*. The first form being in an A. S. charter is the most reliable. I think it is a double name, *Cote* and *Walton*. There is a Walton in the same manor, Stone. For Cote *v.* Cotes; for Walton *v.* Walton, in Stone.

Coven, h., 2 m. SE. of Brewood. D. *Cove*; 12 c. *Covene*, *Coven*. I think this must represent A. S. *cofa*, gen. *cofan*, which Bosworth-Toller renders a 'cove, cave, repository, inner room, chamber, ark.' After the Conquest a medial *f* commonly became *v*, the Normans introducing that letter. But the H. E. D. does not acknowledge 'cave' as an A. S. word, nor does it appear to have found a place in our language before 1220. A. S. *cofa* appears to be the root of *cove*, the old meaning of which the H. E. D. gives as 'a small chamber, inner chamber, bed-chamber, cell, &c.' Coventry, in A. S. charters, is *Cofan-treo* (tree). There must have been ancient ironworks at and around Coven, as the locality was denuded of timber of old time, and there were at least four 'smiths' living there in 1425 (Subsidy Rolls). I think we have the right root, but I do not know how to apply it to the place. Possibly a charcoal-burner's hut in the woods may have given rise to the name.

Cowley, h., in Gnosall, 6 m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Cove-*

lau (the $v = u$); 12 and 13 c. *Coule*, frequently. The original nom. form in A. S. would be *Cue-leah*, the Cow lea (pasture). The terminal *ley* (q. v.) often appears in M. E. as *le*.

Crakemarsh, h., in Uttoxeter. D. *Crachemers*; 13 c. *Crakemershe*. The terminal is clearly A. S. *mersc* ($sc = sh$), a marsh. In the N. *crake* means a crow or raven, from O. N. Here the landrail is also called corn-*crake*; but although *crake* is apparently an A. S. word, being found in D., none of our dictionaries help us with it. There is an A. S. verb *cracian*, to crack, quake, of which *crake* may be an unrecognized product, and 'the quaking marsh' would not be an unlikely meaning. Crakemarsh is not only a unique name, but *crake*, as part of a name, is also unique S. of Yorkshire. Cf. Crakehall and Crakehill, both in Yorkshire. I have elsewhere observed on the existence of Norse words in N. Staffs as pointing to a settlement of Northmen there.

Crane Brook, in Norton and Shenstone parishes, 4 m. S. of Lichfield. 1300 *Crone brouke*; afterwards *Crane brook*. *Crone* is a M. E. form of A. S. *cran*, which the dictionaries give as 'a crane'; but in the Midlands it meant, as it means now, a heron. It may have been otherwise in the fens, but I do not believe that cranes ever inhabited the Midland Counties. I deal with this little stream because we have so many *Cranmeres*—heron's pool—and other pl. names commencing *Cran-*, which are erroneously supposed to refer to the crane. All Midland dialect dictionaries, including Professor Wright's great work, now give *crane* as a heron.

Crank Hill, Crank Hill Lane, 2 m. E. of Wednesbury. *Crank* is a M. E. word of doubtful origin, meaning 'bent, crooked, twisted,' e. g. the 'crank' in machinery; a 'crank,' a man of eccentric opinions, of twisted mind. The word, applied to pl. names, is not uncommon, e. g. *Cronk* Hill, nr. Emstrey, Salop; *Cronk* Hill and *Cronk*wall, Tettenhall; *Cronk*ston Low, nr. Longnor, N. Staffs; *Cronk* Hill, nr. Butterton; *Crank* Wood, nr. Derby; *Cronk* Hill, nr. Atcham,

Salop. I think here it means crooked, bent, or twisted hill. The base of the hill is decidedly tortuous.

Creighton, h., 2 m. NW. of Uttoxeter. 1241 *Cratton.* With only one root, and that a 13 c. one, our material is slight, but I think sufficient. A. S. *crœt, crat* means a cart, and the probable origin of the name is a cart-house. A. S. *tūn* meant any enclosed place (*v.* Ton; *v.* also Drayton and Mixon). *Crat,* in M. E., becomes *carte,* and I have no doubt is the root of 'cart' (by metathesis or shifting of the *r*). The H. E. D. suggests, without adopting, this view.

Cresswell, 2 m. NW. of Stafford. D. *Cressvale;* 13 c. *Cresswalle.* This is a common local name, frequently met with in A. S. charters. Both forms are corrupt on their face. *Vale* was not an A. S. word, being M. E. from O. F. D. scribes often blundered between *v* and *w*. *Walle* is a mistake for *welle,* a common error in mediaeval times; cress (water-cress) does not grow on walls, but by wells, i. e. springs. The original form would be *Cærse,* or *Cerse-wiell,* the (water)-cress well. I have alluded (*v.* Birchills) to the remarkable manner in which *r* sometimes shifts its position, and precedes or follows the vowel. This is an example. From A. S. *cerse* we have Mod. Eng. *cress.* The change occurred in M. E., where we find *cresse* and *kerse* used indifferently. Hence our saying, 'not worth a curse,' means 'not worth a kerse,' i. e. a leaf of cress.

Crowborough, h., 6 m. W. of Leek. 13 c. *Crowbarwe.* A. S. *crāwe,* M. E. *crāwe, crowe,* a crow, raven, and *bearwe,* dat. form of *bearu,* a wood—the Crow's wood. In common parlance rooks are and were called crows, and probably the meaning is 'a rookery.' Strictly speaking, A. S. and M. E. *hrōc* means a rook. Crows are not gregarious birds, and are therefore less likely than rooks to attract attention. Exs.: Crowborough, Crowbutt, Crowcombe, Crowhurst, &c.

Croxall, 6 m. NE. of Lichfield. 773 *Crokeshalle;* D. *Crocheshalle;* 13 c. *Croxhale, Crokeshale, Crocsal.* A. S. p. n.

Croc—Croc's hall (*v.* Hale). A family of Croc (descended from Richard the Forester) were hereditary foresters of Cannock Forest, until 1167. William Croc then had the misfortune to be hanged, with two other knights and a sergeant-at-arms, for killing Gilbert, the king's cup-bearer, in a brawl at Lichfield, where the king then held his court. Our family names of Croke and Crook probably represent an A.S. *Croc*. Mr. Ussher, in his History of Croxall (a most estimable work), gives a different etymology of the name, but I cannot bring myself to accept it.

Croxden, 5 m. NW. of Uttoxeter. D. *Crochesdene*; 1227 *Crokesdun, Crokesden*. The correct terminal is probably *dene*, a valley, as Croxden lies in a valley. The prefix is the common A.S. p. n. *Croc*. Croxall, Croxby, Croxton, Croxdale are examples.

Croxton, h., 4 m. NW. of Eccleshall. D. *Crochestone*. Croc's town; *v.* Croxall, Croxden.

Cuddlestone or **Cuttlestone** (hundred of). D. *Culvestan, Cudolvestan*; 13 c. *Cuthulfestan, Cothelstonbrugge*. I read this as Cuthwulf's stone (the name often appears as *Cuthulf*). Except as a hundred, Cuttlestone has no local habitation beyond 'Cuttlestone bridge,' over the Penk at Penkridge. It is said a hamlet once stood beside the bridge, which carries an ancient thoroughfare called 'King Street,' leading from Penkridge to Newport and the west.

Cunsall, h., 3½ m. SW. of Leek. D. *Cuneshala*; 1227 *Cuneshale*. *Cuna* was an A.S. p. n. The *s* is apparently a gen., but the gen. of *Cuna* (p. n.) should be Cun*an*. The terminal I construe 'hall' (*v.* Hale).

Curborough, h., 2 m. N. of Lichfield. 13 c. *Curburg*; 14 c. *Curborowe, Curborough, Currebourgh*. The terminal is probably *bury* (q. v.), a walled or defended enclosure, and the prefix a remnant of some name like *Curda* or *Creoda*. Curdworth, in Warwickshire, in D. is *Credeworde*, Creoda's land (*v.* Worth).

Dane (The), river, forms the boundary between N. Staffs and Cheshire, and falls into the Weaver nr. Northwich. I have not met with any early forms; but Davenport, which is on the Dane, and doubtless derives its name from it, is *Deneport* in D. I therefore assume its then form to be *Dene*. Nothing can be made of this in A. S. as applicable to a river, and I think it is a Celtic survival. There are two rivers Dean in Scotland, and a river Deanagh in Ireland. The root is perhaps to be found in G. and I. *deann*, impetuous, swift.

Darlaston, 2 m. NW. of Stone. 954 *Deorlavestun*, *Derlavestone*; 1004 (Wulfric Spott's Will) *Deorlafestūn*; later (endorsement on same) *Deorlavestun*; D. *Dorlavestone*; 12 and 13 c. *Derlavestone*, *Dorlaveston*. The form of 1004 is perfectly correct, and gives us 'Deorlaf's town.' The endorsement, having *v* for *f*, was probably made after the Conquest; and the charter of 954, also having *v*, is probably a copy made by a Norman scribe, the A. S. having no *v*; *f* between vowels was pronounced *v*. Darlaston nr. Wednesbury, and Darliston in N. Salop, have a similar origin.

Darlaston, 1½ m. N. of Wednesbury. 12 c. *Derlavestone* —Deorlaf's town. *V.* Darlaston, nr. Stone.

Daw End, h., in Rushall parish, 2 m. NE. of Walsall. 17 c. *Daw* and *Dawe End*; I have met with no earlier forms. *Dau*, *Daw*, *Dawe*, was, in mediaeval times, a short or pet form of 'David'; hence the family names Dawson, Dawkins (*kin* being a diminutive or pet suffix). *End*, in pl. names, means not a terminal point, but a mere locality. Hence Daw End equals 'David's End,' i. e. residence or property. The hamlet is situate on an ancient thoroughfare. Cf. East End, West End, Southend.

Delves (The), **Delves Green**, h., in Wednesbury manor, 2 m. S. of Walsall. Always written as now, but sometimes *Walstede Delves*, from an old family named Walstead who lived at Walstead Hall, on the N. side of the Common, now (1901) occupied by Mr. Boddiley. This is a M. E. word

(from A. S. *dælf*, *delf*, to dig), and, in plural form, means 'the Diggings.' The lower measures of ironstone are close to the surface on Delves Common, the whole of which has been dug over to extract them. These diggings were probably made by an early lord of the manor of Wednesbury, and the ore smelted at his furnace, which stood by the side of the Tame nr. Bescot station. *Delph* is another form of the word (singular) applied to pl. names, e. g. Delph in N. Staffs, Delph nr. Rochdale.

Denstone, h., 5 m. N. of Uttoxeter. D. *Denestone*; 12 and 13 c. *Denestone*, frequently. The possessive *s* points to an A. S. p. n., which we find in *Dene*, *Dena*—Dene's town (*v.* Ton).

Derrington, h., 2 m. W. of Stafford. D. *Dodintone*; 1228 *Doddinton*; 1288 *Dodington*; 1318 *Dudynton*, *Dodynton*. *Dodd*, *Dod*, *Dodda*, was a common A. S. p. n., the gen. form of which was *Doddan*. The gen. *an* to weak nouns has frequently passed into *ing*. The change from *Doddan* to *Derring* is strong, but the forms support it. This is plainly Dodd's or Dodda's town (*v.* Ton).

Dilhorne, 3 m. W. of Cheadle. D. *Dulverne*; 12 c. *Dulvern*, frequently; 13 c. *Dulverne*. The A. S. form would probably be *Dulfern*. *Dulf* is a pl. form of *delf*, a delving or digging; the *v* is a Norman substitute for *f*. The suffix appears to be A. S. *ærn*, *ern*, a place—the place of the diggings. I do not know Dilhorne, but I should think it probable that coal, or some other mineral, had been 'quarried' (got openwork) in A. S. times, or perhaps earlier.

Dove, river, N. Staffordshire. 890 *an dufan*, *and long dufan*; about 1000 *Ærest of dufan*; 13 c. *Duve*, *Douve*. Here we have three A. S. dat. forms, giving us a nom. *dufa* or *dufe*. Later, according to custom, the *f* becomes *v*. In A. S. *dūfan* means 'to dive, to sink,' and, although not recorded in any A. S. dictionary, *dūfa* must have been the A. S. word for a 'diver'; the pelican was *dufe-doppa*, the dipping diver. The Dove, as we now know it, does not dive or sink,

but its head waters, the Manifold and the Hamps, do so, the Manifold diving into the earth at Grindon, and reappearing, with the Hamps, at Ilam—a distance of three miles. It is often difficult to say where a long river commences, and still more difficult to say where it commenced in name fifteen centuries ago. Sometimes head waters carry, in records, the name of the principal stream, but are now known by some local name. Small streams are apt to change their names; great ones never. I suggest that the Dove means 'the Diver.' (W. H. S. does not approve of this interpretation, and says the name is pre-English.)

Doveridge, 1½ m. NE. of Uttoxeter, and on the river Dove. D. *Dubrige*; 13 c. *Doubrig*. *Dou* here represents Dove (river), q. v.; *brig* is a late form of A. S. *brycg*, a bridge —Dove Bridge.

Doxey, h., 2 m. NW. of Stafford. D. *Dochesig*; 12 c. *Dokesei*. The possessive *s* points to a p. n. *Docca* was an A. S. name, but the gen. form should be *Doccan*, *Doccanig* (*g* = *y*)—Docca's island. D. records four manors in Cambridge county (which I cannot now identify) as *Dochesworde* = *Dochesworth*, which I construe Docca's property, notwithstanding the ungrammatical *s*. *Docce* in A. S. means a duck, and this may be Duck's island; but again the gen. of *Docce* is *Doccan*, and the *s* is unaccounted for. The locality of Doxey is low-lying, and in remote times would be marshy. The terminal *ig*, island, is frequently applied to a slight elevation in a marsh. Ely, Cambridgeshire, in A. S. records, is *Elig*; it is no island, but a slight elevation in the fens.

Draycot-in-the-Clay, 3 m. SW of Cheadle. 13 c. *Dracote*, *Draycote*. **Draycote under Needwood.** 13 c. *Draycote under Nedwode*. I translate Draycote 'the cottage of the drag'-(net). *V.* Drayton Bassett.

Drayton, in Penkridge. D. *Draytone*; 13 c. *Draitun*. *V.* Drayton Bassett.

Drayton Bassett, 2 m. SW. of Tamworth. D. *Draitone*,

Drailon; 12 c. *Drailon*. Bassett is a mediaeval addition to distinguish it from other Draytons, and because the Bassetts were its early lords. D. records ten *Draicotes* and thirty-seven *Draytones*. The name abounds in A. S. charters, and is always found as *Drægetūn*. The prefix is not a p. n., but *dræge* in A. S. means a drag, a drag-net, and I construe Drayton 'the town of the drag,' probably drag-*net*, as all Draytons known to me are on streams where, in remote times, fishing would be a common occupation. (This is on the Tame.) *Drag* however was a name applied, very early, to agricultural implements, like a harrow; to floats for the conveyance of goods by water; and to conveyances without wheels, a rough kind of sledge (H. E. D. *s.* Drag); and these meanings *may* apply to some of the many places named Draycote and Drayton; but I think 'drag-net' much more likely to apply. Berne, in Switzerland, has, radically, that meaning. It is Teutonic, *Bern*, *Bernen*—a drag-net; the town is on the Aar. The local tradition is that the root is *Beeren*, a bear; a bear consequently forms part of the arms of the town and canton, and bears are maintained in pits by the municipality. These old myths are common, *v.* Lichfield. (W. H. S. thinks the interpretation 'highly improbable,' but if places can acquire their names from a cart-shed (*v.* Creighton), or a dunghill (*v.* Mixon), or a cattle-fold (*v.* Penn), I can see no improbability in a place taking its name from a drag, or drag-net, kept there, and probably used in common; besides the word *dræge* bears no other interpretation.)

Drointon, h., 5½ m. NW. of Abbots Bromley. D. *Dregetone*; 13 c. *Drengeton*, frequently, *Drenkton*, *Drangeton*. The D. scribe has clearly omitted a medial *n*. The A. S. form would be *Drengestūn*, 'the town of the warrior, or soldier,' and I should be glad to give that construction to it, but *Dreng* was also a p. n., and it is more likely that the place was named after a known individual, than a nameless warrior. Our forefathers had little poetry in their souls. Their hearts were in their homesteads, and 'their talk was of bullocks.'

I think, reluctantly, we must construe this as 'Dreng's town.' (W. H. S. adds: '*Dreng* is O. N., and the name is therefore a late one.') It does not appear in our records until the end of the 10 c.

Druid Heath, Aldridge. 13 and 14 c. *Druwood, Drewood.* The locality was formerly heath-land in Cannock Forest adjoining Sutton Chase. A Norman family of *Dru,* deriving their name from Dreux, department of Eure-et-Loir in Normandy, were mediaeval lords of Aldridge. (The latinized and D. form of the name was *Drogo.* Later it appears as *Drew.*) The heath, being waste, belonged to the lords, and so acquired the name of *Dru-* and *Drew*-wood (*v.* A Brief concerning the Manors of Barr and Aldridge, Brit. Mus. Add. MS. 24822). Shaw (Hist. of Staffordshire, General Hist. p. ii) says, 'Drood heath is certainly Druid heath,' and he forthwith assumes that the Druids had a summer residence here, and a winter residence in a camp near Bourne Pool, in the valley below. Shaw's theory has passed into general acceptance, but, though we are greatly indebted to him, he was no etymologist. The evidence that 'Druids' ever had any existence is very slight.

Dunstal, h., 1½ m. W. of Tamworth. Formerly *Tunstall.* Anciently within the hay of Hopwas, Cannock Forest. *V.* Dunstall.

Dunstall, h., 4½ m. SW. of Burton-on-Trent. 1272 *Tunstall*; 13 c. *Tunstall.* The A. S. form would be *Tūnsteall,* an enclosed farmstead, or cattle-yard. All Dunstalls appear to be corruptions of Tunstall, *d* and *t* being commonly interchanged. I have observed that places bearing this name are generally to be found on the borders of ancient wastes, as if they had been outlying farm-yards without homesteads, similar to those commonly seen on the downs in Wilts., known as 'bartons.' This place was in the Forest of Needwood.

Dunstall, an ancient homestead, 1 m. N. of Abbots Bromley. 1327 *Tunstal*; 1355 *Tunstal Maner* (Manor).

Formerly within the limits of Needwood Forest. *V.* Dunstall, nr. Burton-on-Trent.

Dunstall, h., 1¼ m. NW. of Wolverhampton (on 1 in. Ordnance map, Tunstall). 1356 *Tunstall near Hampton*; 1450 and 1563 *Tunstall.* Half a mile outside the ancient boundary of Cannock Forest. *V.* Dunstall, nr. Burton-on-Trent.

Dunston, 2 m. NE. of Penkridge. D. *Dunestone*; 12 and 13 c. *Donestan* and *Doneston. Dun, Dunn, Duna, Dunna* (all from the same root *dun*, dark, dusky, swarthy), were common A. S. p. names, of which *Done* is sometimes a late form. We have here an irregular gen. *es* pointing to a p. n., and although the correct gen. is *an* I see no reason to distrust it. Norman scribes knew very little A. S. grammar. I translate this 'Dun's town.'

Eaton (Church), 2 m. SE. of Gnosall. D. *Eitone.* Eaton, Eton, Eyton, are common pl. names, the A. S. form of which would be *Ēātun*, the town (*v.* Ton) on the stream; *ea* also means 'water,' but generally running water. There was a church here before Domesday; but 'Church' is a mediaeval addition to the name.

Eaton (Water), in Penkridge. D. *Etone. V.* Eaton (Church).

Eaton (Wood), 8 m. from Stafford. 13 c. *Wodeyton, Wode-Eyton. V.* Eaton (Church). M. E. *wode*, a wood.

Eccleshall. D. *Ecleshelle*; 13 c. *Eccleshale, Eccleshall*; 14 c. *Egleshale.* A. S. p. n. *Æcle, Æcel*, Æcle's hall (*v.* Hale). *Ægel, Ægle*, was also a p. n.; but *g* = *y*, and would become *Ayles*, as in Aylesbury, Aylesford, Aylesthorp, all from the p. n. *Ægel.*

Edingale, 5 m. N. of Tamworth. D. *Ednunghalle*; 12 c. *Eadinghall, Ederingehale, Edenynghal*; 13 c. *Edenyngehale.* The terminal is plain enough, but the rest is difficult. Supposing the original A. S. form was *Ead-ing-hale*, we might read it 'the hall of the descendants of Eada'; but we have

no such exact form, and *ing*, following a p. n., may be a patronymic, as suggested, or it may be used in a gen. or possessive sense; e. g. *Æthelwulfing lond* means Æthelwulf's land, and, according to the best authorities, Barlavington (A. S. *Beōrlāfingtūn*) means Beorlaf's town, Woolbedington (A. S. *Wulfbœdingtūn*) Wulfbæd's town, Wool Lavington (A. S. *Wulflāfingtūn*) Wulflaf's town, and so on. I suggest that the *Ed* in Edingale represents the p. n. *Eada*, and I think it will be safer to construe the name as 'the hall of Eada.' The use of *ing*, in a patronymic sense, is rare, and should be accepted with caution. Places were frequently named after saints; Attingham (Atcham), nr. Shrewsbury, means 'the home of the children or disciples' (*ing* having also those meanings) 'of Eata.' It could not be read as 'the home of Eata,' because the saint never lived there; but the church is dedicated to him. (W. H. S. suggests that the name here was *Ead*(*h*)*un*, and I think he is probably right.)

Edjiall, h., in Hammerwich, 3 m. SW. of Lichfield. 1379 *Edysale*; 1416 *Edihall*; 16 c. *Edyall, Edihall.* I incline to think this would be, originally, an A. S. *Eadgeates hale*, Eadgeat's hall (*g* = *y*), the pronunciation of which would become Edyatshale, later Edyale and Edgale (*g* soft).

Elford, 4½ m. NW. of Tamworth, on the Tame. 1004 *Elleford*; D. *Eleford. Elle, Ella* (earlier *Ælle, Ælla*), was a common A. S. p. n. The correct original form would be *Ellenford*, the ford of Elle. The bridge over the Tame here was erected in the early part of the 19 c.; previously the river was forded at Withyford, half a mile below the bridge. It may be suggested that the prefix represents A. S. *œl*, eel—Eel ford; but I think the p. n. much more likely. *V.* Ellenhall.

Elkstone, 6 m. NE. of Leek. 1227 *Elkesdon*; 13 c. *Elkesdon*, frequently. The terminal is A. S. *dūn*, a hill (*v.* Don). The possessive *s* in the forms points to a p. n. I cannot identify *Elc* as one, but it formed the prefix to names such as *Elcbeorht, Elcwold*, &c.; it may be a short or pet form, or, the forms being late, the terminal of the name may have

dropped out (*v.* Bescot). D. records *Elchesleie* (*ch* = *k*), now Elksley, in Notts, and *Elchestane*, now Elkstone, in Gloucestershire, so that it is not unlikely that *Elc* may have been a p. n., though not found in any existing record.

Ellastone, 5 m. SW. of Ashbourne. D. *Edelachestone*, *Elachestone*; 12 c. *Edelachestone*, *Athelaxton*, *Adelakestone*, *Ethelaxton*. A. S. p. n. *Æthelac*—Æthelac's town (*v.* Ton).

Ellenhall, 2 m. SE. of Eccleshall. D. *Linehalle*; 12 c. *Ellinhale*. The D. scribe has blundered. I think the prefix is the gen. form of the p. n. *Elle*, which would be *Ellen*, giving us 'the hall of Elle.' In A. S. charters we find such names as *Ellenbeorh*, *Ellebeorh*, *Ellesbeorh*, Elle's hill; *Ellencumb*, Elle's valley; *Ellenford*, Elle's ford; *Ellewyl* (whence our family name Elwell), Elle's spring; *Ellewurthie* (whence Elworthy), Elle's farm. In later A. S. charters the gen. forms became confused, *an* and *es* being used indifferently. Language was then, as ever, in a transition state. Printing, the Bible, and Shakespeare, all tended to stereotype it.

Ellowes (The), Sedgley. In an inquisition of the manor of Sedgley in 1272, 'the moor of Ellenvale' and 'the house and garden of Ellenvale' are mentioned as portions of the manor. Shaw's History of Staffordshire, v. 77, App. 19, in the pedigree of 'Jevons,' gives 'Ellavales' as the property of the Jevonses (who lived at Sedgley Hall) in 1573. As I do not find in any ancient records relating to Sedgley any other name which could possibly apply to the Ellowes, and there is now, I believe, no other place in Sedgley at all like Ellenvale, I think it may be assumed that in 1272 the name of the Ellowes was *Ellenvale*, and that by 1573 it had become *Ellavales*; and in later times became *Ellowes*. These changes are quite in accordance with usage and phonetic law. Assuming the correct form to be Ellenvale, the meaning of the name is 'Ella's vale.' *Ella*, *Elle*, was an A. S. p. n., of which *Ellan* or *Ellen* (according to the form used) was the correct gen. *Vale* is not an A. S. word, having been introduced here after the Conquest. If the original form

Ellenvale was applied to the ancient messuage now called 'the Abbey,' vale would be an accurate description of the site, but 'the moor of Ellenvale' would appear to include a wide locality.

Elmerson, h., in Whitgreave, 3½ m. NW. of Stafford. 1252 *Elmershull.* *Ælfmær* (sometimes written *Ælmær*, and later *Elmer*) was an A. S. p. n., meaning 'glorious elf.' I read this as originally 'Ælfmær's (later Elmer's) hill.' The conversion of the M. E. terminal *hull* into *on* is unusual; but there is no doubt about it here.

Elmhurst, h., 2 m. N. of Lichfield. 13 c. (Kirkby's Quest) *Elinghurst*; always afterwards *Elmhurst, Elmehurst,* or *Elmeshurst.* A. S. *elm* means an elm, and *hurst* a wood —the elm wood; but the prefix *Eling-*, in the earliest form, is perplexing. Assuming an original A. S. form *Ellenhurst* (meaning Elle's wood) it would readily pass into Elinghurst and Elmhurst. Kirkby's Quest was made about 1275, and an earlier form would be desirable, but is hardly likely to be found, as Elmhurst is not mentioned in D., or in any known A. S. record.

Endon, 5 m. SW. of Leek. D. *Enedun*; 13 c. *Henedun, Enedun.* A. S. p. n. *Æna* m., *Æne* f., and *dun*, a hill—Æne's hill. *Æne* means 'once, one,' and it would be difficult to attach any other meaning to it here than a p. n. This appears to be a woman's name.

Engleton, h., 1 m. NE. of Brewood. 12 and 13 c. *Engleton* always. *Engle, Angel, Engel, Angle* (variant forms of the same word, from Angeln in Denmark), means an Angle, or English(man), whence A. S. *Englalond,* England. The meaning of this name is therefore 'English town.' Perhaps some Angle from Schleswig-Holstein may have been an early settler here. Cf. Englebourne, Englefield. D. records eleven *Englebys* which are now 'Ingleby' (*by*, a village). *Engel* was not a p. n., though it formed the prefix to some late A. S. names; but the possessive *s* is here lacking.

Enson, h., 4 m. NE. of Stafford. D. *Hentone* (?); 13 c.

Enson, Henestone, Eneston. I think this is 'Æne's town' (*v.* Endon). Here we have a clear terminal *ton* passing to *on*.

Enville, 5 m. W. of Stourbridge. D. *Efnefeld*; 12 c. *Evenesfeld, Evenefeld, Efnefeld*; 13 c. *Evenefeld,* frequently. *Ville* may be always rejected as a terminal in pl. names, unless they have been named after the Conquest, as it is O.F. D. here is perfectly correct, as *Efnefeld* means 'the even (level) field or plain' (*v.* Field). The locality accords with the name. This example shows how regularly *f* became *v* after the Conquest.

Essington, 4½ m. NW. of Walsall. 994 *Esingetun*; D. *Eseningetone*; 13 c. *Eseningeton, Esynton, Esnyngton. Esne* was a common A. S. p. n., and, though it means 'servant,' was borne by men of rank. Here the *ing* is original, but whether it is used in a patronymic or possessive sense I cannot say. A very early form would probably be *Esn-ing-tūn*, which may be translated either 'the town of the descendants of Esne,' or 'the town belonging to Esne' (*v.* Ton).

Ettingshall, h., 2 m. SE. of Wolverhampton. 994 *Ettingeshall*; D. *Etinghale*; 13 c. *Ettingeshale, Etyngeshale. Etinges heale* is found in Cart. Sax. 586, an. 901, in the description of the bounds of a manor in Wiltshire. That form I translate 'the meadows of the sons of Etti,' *Etting* not being a p. n. In this case, however, the forms of the terminals point to 'hall' rather than to meadow-land (*v.* Hale). The p. names *Etta* and *Etti* are late (11 c.), and probably represent an older *Eata*, a common name in the 7 and 8 c.

Extall, h., in Ranton, 5 m. W. of Stafford. 1220 *Hecstall*. A. S. *hæc*, gen. *hæcce*, M. E. *hec, hek, hacche*, &c., a hatch, and A. S. *steal*, M. E. *stall*, a stall. Stall has various meanings, but, in pl. names, may, like 'stead,' generally be translated 'place, station.' 'Hatch' again is used in many senses—the lower part of a divided door, a wicket gate, a floodgate, a trap for catching fish on a stream in the form of lattice-work or grating. The meaning of the name is therefore 'the place of the hatch,' but the sense in which 'hatch' is here

used requires early local knowledge. The dropping of an initial *H* is not uncommon. *V.* Hextons.

Fallings (Old), an ancient estate in Bushbury parish, 2 m. N. of Wolverhampton. 12 c. *Olde Falinge.* This form is good M. E., derived, probably, from A. S. *feallan*, to fall. It means the 'Old falling, felling (of timber), clearing.' It lay within the limits of Cannock Forest, close to its western boundary, and was doubtless a very early enclosure. New enclosures were a fertile source of pl. names; *v.* Birchills, Long Birch, Riddings, Stubbock Green, Stockings, Bratches, &c. Old Falls is the name of an ancient farm on Cheslyn Hay, nr. Shareshill. We speak of 'falling' timber, or of a 'fall' of timber.

Farewell, 2½ m. N. of Lichfield. 13 c. *Fayrwell, Faurwell, Fagereswell, Fagrewelle, Fagerwelle, Farewell.* A. S. *fæger*, M. E. *fayr, fager, fare* (all pr. 'fair'), and A. S. *wiell*, M. E. *welle*—the fair or clear spring. There are springs here in the red sandstone. A priory of Benedictine nuns was founded at Farewell about 1140, before which it was a hermitage in the Forest of Cannock.

Farley, h., 4 m. NE. of Cheadle. D. *Fernlege* (*g* = *y*). A. S. *fearn*, M. E. *ferne*, and *leage* (*v.* Ley), pasture—the fern, or ferny, lea. M. E. *er* was pronounced *ar*; from Farnley to Farley is an easy step. Farleigh and Farnley are common pl. names with similar roots; the *n* is more frequently elided than retained.

Fauld, h., in Hanbury, 7 m. SE. of Uttoxeter. D. *Felede*; 13 c. *Falede, Fauld, Fald, Feld, Felde.* The forms point to A. S. *fald, falde, falod*, a fold, farm-yard. In Scotland the form is still *fald* and *fauld.*

Fazeley, 1 m. S. of Tamworth. 1300 *Faresleye*; 14 c. *Faresleye, Fareslee.* A. S. *fearr* (gen. *fearres*) means a bull, ox. The A. S. form of the name would probably be *Fearresleah*, the bull's (or ox) pasture. Farcet, in Hunts, was *Fearres-heafod* (*heafod* = head), Bull's head. (W. H. S.)

Featherstone, 6 m. E. of Wolverhampton. 994 *Feotherstan, Feotherestan*; D. *Ferdestan*; 1271 *Fethereston.* The terminal is clearly A. S. *stān*, stone. A large stone, at 'Warstone,' called in a charter of 994 *Horestān*, marks the boundary of Featherstone. In A. S. *fether* means a feather; but it is unlikely that 'feather' and 'stone' can form a compound, and I think we must look elsewhere. *Fæder, Feader, Fader* (only different modes of spelling 'father'), was a somewhat common p. n. 'Feader' was murdered by a mob, at Worcester, when collecting taxes for Hardicanute, in 1041. The charter of 994 is lost, and only a corrupt copy of it remains, so that I do not feel bound by its exact spelling. I think we shall be right in reading this as 'Feader's stone.' We have Featherston nr. Haltwhistle, Featherstone nr. Pontefract, and Featherstal nr. Rochdale.

Fenton, h., in Stoke-on-Trent. D. *Fentone*; 13 c. *Culverdesfenton, Fenton, Fenton-Vivian, Fenton-Culvart.* A.S. *fen*, a fen, marsh, and *tūn* (*v.* Ton)—Fen town. A Vivian was Rector of Stoke in the 12 c., and probably impressed his name on the place, for a time. Culverd is a family name, and *Culverd's-low* is a pl. name met with in mediaeval charters relating to Fenton.

Finchfield, an ancient estate in Tettenhall, 2½ m. W. of Wolverhampton. 13 c. *Fynchenesfeld, Fynchingefeld*; 14 c. *Fynchenefeld.* A. S. *finc* (*c* = *ch*), M. E. *finch, fynch,* means a finch (bird); but *Finc* was also a p. n., which in M. E. became *Finch.* The family name Finch is not uncommon. Holloway Bank, Wednesbury, was anciently Finchespath, the road to Finch's house. We have Fincham in Norfolk, Finchhamstead in Berks., Finchdean in Hants, Fichenfield in Essex, and Finchley in Middlesex, probably from the same root. The earliest form, *Fynchenesfeld,* shows our language in a transition state; the correct form would be *Fynchenfeld,* 'the field of Finch' (*i* and *y* interchangeable); but the scribe adds also the modern gen. *es.*

Fisherwick, h., on the Tame, 3½ m. NE. of Lichfield. 12 c. *Fischerewich*; 13 c. *Fisherwyke, Fysscherwik, Fyscheres-wick.* A. S. *fiscere* (*sc*=*sh*), M. E. *fishere*, a fisherman, A. S. *wic*, M. E. *wick, wyke*, a dwelling, village, &c.—'the fisherman's dwelling.' It might be suggested that 'Fisher' represents a p. n., but it was not one before the 13 c., and then only a second or descriptive name, such as 'John the Fyschere.'

Fishley, h., 3 m. N. of Walsall. 17 c. *Thistley, Fishley, Fistley, otherwise Thistly Ridding, Lower Fistley otherwise Thistling Ridding, Thistley field.* Fishley has nothing to do with 'fish.' The locality was in the 18 c. an open field, part of Essington Wood, and anciently within Cannock Forest. A. S. and M. E. *thistel*, a thistle—'the thistley lea.' Mr. R. Thomas, of the Fishley Colliery, told me (January, 1896) that the place was still often called 'Thisley,' and he showed me a letter addressed to him at 'Thisley.' *Fissle* and *Fistle* are dialectic forms of *Thistle* (E. P. N.). 'Ridding' means a clearing, an enclosure and cultivation of wild land (*v.* Ridding).

Flash, h., parish of Alstonefield, 4 m. NW. of Longnor. 16 c. *Flashe.* This is the earliest form of the name I have met with, and I assume it to be correct. *Plash* and *Flash* are synonyms. Neither form is admitted into any A. S. dictionary, yet the word *Plesc* (pr. *plash*) is to be found in a charter of 963 (Cart. Sax. 1119), and is now represented by Plash, a parish 5 m. NE. of Church Stretton, Salop. The pl. form *plesces* (pr. *plashes*) is also in the same charter. Prompt. Parv. (an. 1440) says: 'Plasche or flasche, where reyne water stondythe.' The name is applied to wet flat land where water lies after rain and gradually disappears. Our word splash is only the old form with an excrescent *s*. Modern drainage has changed the aspect of the kind of land referred to.

Flashbrook, h., 4 m. N. of Newport. D. *Fletesbroc*; 1227 *Flotesbroc*; 13 c. *Flotesbroc.* The terminal *broc*, brook, is plain, but the prefix is perplexing; its gen. form points to a p. n. which I cannot identify. It may be a diminutive of

some name commencing *Flæd-*, *Flod-*, or *Flote-*; *d* and *t* are frequently interchanged.

Footherley, h. and hall, in Shenstone, 3½ m. S. of Lichfield. 12 c. *Fulwardlee*; 13 c. *Fodereslege*, *Fulverle*; 14 c. *Fullerleye*, *Folverleye*, *Fulverleye*, *Fulfordleigh*; 16 c. *Fotherley otherwise Fulderley*. The forms are very conflicting and corrupt. The earliest appears to be the most reliable, and points to the p. n. *Folcweard*—Folcweard's lea (*v.* Ley).

Ford Brook, Pelsall, 3 m. N. of Walsall, forms the eastern boundary of Pelsall. 994 *Ordes-iege* (ey), Ord's water. A family named *de Ordeseye* were living on or near the stream in the 13 and 14 c. *Ord* does not appear to have been an A. S. p. n., but it formed the prefix to many names, e. g. Ordbeorht, Ordgar, Ordfrith, &c., and 'Ord' was an early M. E. family name. There are traces and tradition of an ancient watermill and pools, probably occupied by the de Ordeseyes. The *F* in the modern form is of course excrescent.

Fordhouses, h., in Bushbury, 3 m. N. of Wolverhampton, on the main road to Stafford where it crosses a stream. Persons living here in the 14 c. are described in subsidy and other rolls as William, &c., 'atte forde.'

Forton, h., in Meer manor, 2 m. N. of Newport. 1199 *Forton*; 13 c., and afterwards, *Forton*. The terminal is plain (*v.* Ton); but it is impossible to make anything of *For* in A. S. Some intermedial letter has dropped out, perhaps *d*, and an A. S. form would probably be *Fordtūn*, the town of the ford, or *Fordun*, the hill of the ford, *d* and *t* frequently interchanging. There are five other *Fortons* in England, and D. records one *Fortune* and two *Fordunes*, all of which have become Forton. Fordham, Fordwich, Fordley (*v.* Ham, Wich, and Ley), are pl. names which have retained the *d*, as the result of accent. I should expect to find that the *w* in Fordwich is not sounded, as Adwick is pr. Addick; Bromwich, Bromich; Catwick, Cattick; Colwich, Colich; Crostwick, Crossick; Greenwich, Grenich; and so on.

Foxt, h., in Ipstone manor, 3 m. N. E. of Cheadle. 1253

Foxiate; 1292 *Foxwyst*. In A. S. *fox* means 'a fox.' If we could read the first form *Foxyate* we should have Fox road, *yate* being a M. E. form of *gate*, a road; but the terminal *wyst* in the second form is incomprehensible. *Fox* is not uncommonly found in A. S. charters as a prefix to pl. names, certainly with reference to a fox, as it was not a p. n. till after the Conquest.

Fradley, h., 4½ m. NE. of Lichfield. 1262 *Fodresleye*, *Foderesleye*; 1286 *Frodeleye*. The prefix doubtless represents a p. n., perhaps *Fæder*, *Feader* (father)—Feader's lea (*v.* Ley); or it may be *Frod*—Frod's lea (*v.* Fradswell). The *r* appears to have shifted in the 13 c., as to which *v.* Birchills.

Fradswell, 7 m. SE. of Stone. D. *Frodeswelle*; 13 c. *Frotheswell*, *Frodeswall*, and *Frodeswell* frequently. A. S. p. n. *Frod*—Frod's well. *Frōd* means 'wise.'

Freeford, 1 m. SE. of Lichfield. D. *Fraiforde*; 12 c. *Freiford*; 14 c. *Freforde*; 16 c. *Friesforde*. Freeford is on an ancient road between Lichfield and Tamworth, where a small stream thwarts the road, and a once great heath, called Whittington Heath, commenced. A. S. *frēo* means free, but the ford is too insignificant ever to have been other than 'free.' The 16 c. form, *Friesforde*, points to a heath, Friesland being always 'heath-land,' from A. S. *fyrs*, M. E. *firse*, and then comes the common shifting of the *r*; *v.* Friezeland. The meaning may be 'the heath ford'; but many p. names commenced *Freō-*, and earlier forms are desirable.

Friar Park, 1½ m. NE. of Wednesbury. 1606 *Fryars Park*; so called because it belonged to the monks of Sandwell. Their grange, of which the Park was part, was on Cronk Hill. *Park* in M. E. did not necessarily mean a place set apart for ornament or game; it meant, originally, any 'fenced land.'

Friezeland, Walsall Wood. **Friezeland,** Tipton. This is a common name, e. g. Friezland nr. Market Bosworth, Friezland nr. Rochdale, Friezeland nr. Lincoln, Frisland on the Cotswolds, &c. All Friezelands I know are upon or near ancient heaths. The root is A. S. *fyrs*, M. E. *firse*,

furze. Then by metathesis, or shifting of the *r* (*v.* Birchills), we get *frise* = heath-land.

Frith. A N. Staffs word, unknown, I think, in the S. of the county, though commonly used in various parts of England. It is of doubtful origin, and means a wood, or wild land. The name is always found on the borders of ancient forests, and, I think, was applied to enclosed or defined woods or wastes belonging to a subject, though part of, and subject to the laws of, the forest. Formerly no subject could hunt in his own woods without royal licence, express or implied. The word, by the shifting of the *r*, is sometimes found as *firth*.

Frog Hall, h., 7 m. SE. of Leek. 15 c. *Frogholle*, *Frog-hole*, frequently. The terminal is clearly M.E. *hole*, meaning, in pl. names, a small valley, hollow, or depression. The prefix is A.S. *frocga*, M.E. *frogge*, a frog—Froghole. *Frog-* is a very common prefix, e.g. Frognall, Frogmoor, Frogham, Froggatt, Frogden, Frogwell, Frogbrook, Frog Lane, &c. The association of *Frog-* with some of the terminals is hard to reconcile. All these names appear to be of M.E. origin. D. does not record a single manor commencing *Frog-* (or *Frox-*, another A.S. form for Frog). Froxfield, 3 m. NW. of Petersfield, in Hants, is *Froxafelda*, Frogfield, in Cod. Dip. 593, an. 965. There is also a Froxfield in Wilts, 3 m. W. of Hungerford (not in D.), which has probably a similar origin.

Fulfen, 1½ m. E. of Lichfield, an ancient farm and small post-D. manor. 14 c. *Fulfon*, *Fulfen*, frequently. A.S. *ful* means 'full,' and *fūl* 'foul, muddy.' Accentuation is of great importance in A.S., but was neglected, especially in late MSS. The probability is that we should read this 'foul fen.' *Ful-* forms the prefix to a large number of pl. names, mostly connected with streams or water, e.g. Fulford, Fulbrook, Fulbourn, Fulbeck, Fullwood, Fullwell, &c.; we have only the terminals to guide us in the construction.

Fulford, 4 m. NE. of Stone. D. *Fuleforde*; 13 c. *Fule-forde*, *Folford*, *Fuleford*. The terminal of course is plain 'ford,' but whether *ful* must be construed 'full' or 'foul'

we have nothing to guide us. *V.* Fulfen. (*Fūl*, foul, muddy, no doubt. W. H. S.)

Gaia Lane, Lichfield. 1199 *Gaia*; 1200 *La Gaia*; afterwards *Gaia Lane*, *Gaiafields*, Prebendary of *Gaia Major*, Prebendary of *Gaia Minor*. *Gaia* is a mediaeval L. name for a jay, and in N. F. *gai*, *gay* (*g* soft) has the same meaning. I translate this 'Jay Lane.' It is rare to find a L. word surviving in a pl. name, and its exact form preserved. In this case I think it probable that, as the word is only to be found in *mediaeval* L., it was derived from O. F.

Gailey, h., 4 m. W. of Cannock, on Watling Street. 1004 *Gageleage*; D. *Gragelie*; 13 c. *Galewey*, *Gaule*, *Gaueleye*. The 'district' is called 'Gailey Hay'; it was one of the hays of the Forest of Cannock, and lies flat and low. Until the country was enclosed and drained it would be mainly marsh-land. This is A. S. *gagel* (medial $g = y$), M. E. *gawl*, *gaule*, *gagel*, Mod. E. *gale*, the wild myrtle (*Myrica Gale*, L.). The name is commonly found in Forest records as the 'Hay of Gauley.' '*Myrica Gale* is known by many names, such as bog-myrtle, gale, gaul bushes, gaul, moor myrtle, &c.' (E. P. N.). Halliwell's Dict. of A. and P. Words gives, 'Galey, swampy, marshy'; 'Gale, wild myrtle.' Collinson's Hist. of Somerset, under 'Mere,' says: 'The moors also abound with the Myrica or sweet gale, a low shrub with spear-shaped or serrated leaves bearing catkins and a dry berry. The northern nations formerly used this plant instead of hops. The catkins, boiled in water, throw up a waxy scum which will make candles. Gathered in autumn it dyes wool yellow, and it is used in tanning calf-skin. Horses and goats eat it. It was also used medicinally.' See further H. E. D., *s.* 'Gale.' I have dealt rather fully with this, because our dull practical forefathers seldom give us so pretty a name as 'the hay of the wild myrtle.' A writer in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1786, Pt. i. 408,

says: 'At a place called Foulmire' (now Fulmer), 'about a mile from the Four Crosses' (an ancient inn on Watling Street, and in Gailey Hay), 'an aromatic shrub of the myrtle kind grows spontaneously. It is called gale or sweet gale, and gives name to a hamlet near it. Where it flourishes is a black morassy ground between two copses, greatly sheltered from the bleak winds, which no doubt contributes greatly to its safety. It thrives not anywhere else, and seems confined to this small spot of a few acres.' *V.* Wyrley.

Garshall, h., in Milwich, 4 m. E. of Stone. 14 c. *Geringeshalgh*, *Geryngeshalgh*, *Geryngeshawe*. The terminal *halgh* is seldom found in the Midlands in so perfect a form; in the N. it is common. Its root is A. S. *healh*, M. E. *halh*, of which *halche*, *haugh*, and *haw* are also forms, meaning meadow-land (generally, I think, river-side). *Garinge* was an A. S. p. n. I read this as 'Garinge's meadow-land.'

Gayton, 6 m. NE. of Stafford. D. *Gaitone*; 1227 *Gaidon*. We have in England one 'Gaydon,' nine 'Gaytons,' and two 'Gaywoods,' so that the meaning of *Gay* is worth settling. The conflicting terminals in the forms may be read *ton*, a town, or *don*, a hill (*v.* Ton and Don). The prefix is not our mod. *gay*, a French word introduced here after the Conquest. It is certainly not a p. n., and I think it *must* represent A. S. *geat*, *gat*, *yat*, M. E. *gate*, *gayte*, *yate*, a gate, narrow way=Gate town, probably from a primitive enclosure approached by a gate or narrow way. The words *gate* and *yate* (synonyms) are, however, sometimes applied to thoroughfare roads. *Gate*, as an original prefix, has frequently permanently passed into *yate*, e. g. Yate, S. Gloucestershire; Yatton, Somerset; Yateley, N. Hants; Yatton, Herefordshire, &c.

Gentleshaw, h., in Longdon parish, 5 m. NW. of Lichfield. 1505 *Gentylshawe*; 1529 *Gentylshawe*. The name was originally applied to a grove of ancient oaks on a lofty part of Cannock Chase, now fast decaying. The terminal

is M. E. *shawe, schawe,* a grove. In 1341 a John Gentyl was sued by Simon de Ruggeley for cutting down his trees in Longdon (Gentleshaw is in Longdon); and about the same time a Simon Gentil was executor of the will of Roger de Northburgh, Bishop of Lichfield. I think it probable that this family gave name to the grove by planting it; it is mentioned as a 'grove of oaks' in Forest records, temp. Elizabeth.

Gerrards (Bromley), *v.* Bromley Gerrards.

Gillotty Greaves, h. and ancient farm, 1 m. S. of Walsall. In deeds of the 14 and 15 c. the place is regularly called 'le greve,' M. E. for a grove or wood. Later it is found as *greves* and *greaves* (woods); later still it is mentioned as 'Gillott o' th' Greaves.' Probably a family named Gillott went to reside there, and impressed its name on the place. The adjoining localities still bear the names of Wood End, Hay Head, and Barr Common; in the 14 c. the country for miles round was wild and waste.

Gnosall, 6½ m. W. of Stafford. D. *Geneshale*; 1199 *Gnodweshall, Gnodeshall*; 1204 *Gnoweshale*; 1223 *Gnoushale*. The D. scribe was probably as much perplexed by this name as I am, and I disregard his entry, which conflicts with the later and modern forms. The terminal may be construed 'hall' (*v.* Hale), and the prefix probably represents some unrecorded A. S. p. n. The forms of 1199 point to the rare p. n. *Cnofwealh*. The passage of *C* to *G* before *n* would be likely.

Gornall, h., in Sedgley, 2 m. NW. of Dudley. 15 c. *Gwarnell, Guarnell*. The forms are late, but I think this is clearly A. S. *cweorn*, M. E. *quern, cwerne,* a mill. In Mod. E. *quern* means a hand-mill, but formerly it meant any kind of mill for grinding. Exs.: Quarnford=Millford, Quarndon=Mill hill. In M. E. *er* = *ar*. It is difficult to say whether the terminal *ell*, in the forms, represent an original *hale*, or *hull*. If *hale* then I should translate Gornall, Mill meadow

(*v.* Hale); if *hull*, Mill hill. The probability is in favour of Mill meadow, as Gornall lies at the base of the Sedgley hills. Originally all mills were hand-mills. They were followed by ass or ox-mills; then by water-mills, and afterwards by windmills. There is no record of a windmill before the 13 c., and all the mills mentioned in D. are water-mills. When we read, 'Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken and the other left,' we must understand a hand-mill or quern, with the women sitting close together, turning by upright handles the revolving upper stone.

Gosbrook, h., in Bushbury, 1 m. N. of Wolverhampton, takes its name from a brook which in 14 and 15 c. deeds appears as *Gosbroke* and *Gosebroke*. A. S. *gōs*, M. E. *gōs*, *goos*, a goose, becomes *gos-* in pl. names, as in *gosling* and *goshawk*. *Gōsebroc*, *Gōsden* (*den*, valley), *Gōsford*, *Gōsleah*, *Gōswell*, *Gōsfeld*, are forms frequently met with in A. S. charters. The word included, and includes, many varieties of wild aquatic birds, as well as the tame species.

Goscote, h., 2 m. NE. of Walsall. 13 c. *Gorstycote*; 14 c. *Gorsticote*, *Gorscote*. A. S. and M. E. *gorst*, *gorse*, gorse, furze—'the cottage in the gorse,' or, 'on the heath.' The locality was formerly within the limits of Cannock Forest, and two centuries ago had much heath about it.

Gospel Oak, h., 1½ m. W. of Wednesbury, is on the boundary of the parishes of Wednesbury, Tipton, and Sedgley. The Oak has long ago succumbed to ironworks and collieries. Gospel Oak, Gospel Tree, and Gospel End are common names on parish boundaries. They originate in the perambulations of parishes, which, before maps were used, were made at irregular intervals, generally in Rogation week. The custom is very ancient, being referred to in the Canons of Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, A. D. 747; and Rogation days are called 'gang days' (*gang* = going) in the laws of King Alfred. The minister, accompanied by his

churchwardens and parishioners, then 'beat the bounds' of the parish, and, at certain accustomed spots on the border read portions of the Bible. An oak tree, a great stone, spring, or other notable landmark, was usually adopted as a 'Gospel place.' These perambulations were carefully recorded, and concluded with a free feast. The following is an extract from a perambulation of Norton Canes made in 1775:—'. . . and so to Newlands Well, which well is a Gospel Place, and a Psalm was sung and a Gospel read by the said Mr. Jno. White, the Curate; and from the said well up the Lane on the North side to the top of the said little Newlands Lane, and from thence across and over a small inclosed piece of Land to the Gravelly Path on the Road from Cannock to Lichfield where there is a Foot Bridge, which is a Gospel Place, and a Gospel was read, and a Cross was made, and from thence along the publick Road and Highway leading from Cannock towards Lichfield, across the Common or Heath called Cannock-Wood untill you come over against the Round Turrett which lieth on the Southern Side of the said Road at about an Hundred yards distance from it in which Road a Cross is made, and on the Turrett is a Gospel Place, where the said Curate read a Gospel, and a Psalm was sung,' &c.

Gothersley, h., 3 m. NW. of Stourbridge. 14 c. *Godrichesley*, *Godericheley*. A. S. p. n. *Godrich* (*c* = *ch*)—Godric's lea. Hence the family names 'Godrick' and 'Goodrich.'

Grange, a name borne by many ancient farms, is a M. E. word, derived from O. F. *grange*, *graunge*, the original meaning of which was properly a barn; but was applied to outlying farms belonging to the abbeys. The manual labour on these farms was performed by an inferior class of monks, called *lay-brothers*, who were excused from many of the requirements of the monastic rule; but they were superintended by the monks themselves, who were allowed, occasionally, to spend some days at the grange for that

purpose. At the suppression of the monasteries many of them were dismantled and turned into 'granges.' 'At the moated *grange* resides this dejected Mariana' (Shakespeare, Measure for Measure, iii. 1).

Graseley or **Grazeley,** h., 1½ m. SW. of Wolverhampton. 1282 *Graseley*. A. S. *gærs, gers*, grass, becomes in M. E. *græs, ˜gras*, and gives us here 'the grassy lea.' This is another example of the shifting of *r*. *Gres-, Gras-*, and other forms meaning 'grass,' form the prefix to many pl. names.

Gratwich, 4 m. SW. of Uttoxeter. D. *Gratewich*; 12 c. *Grotewich*; 13 c. *Gretewyc, Gretewych*. A. S. *grēat*, M. E. *grete*, and A. S. *wic*, M. E. *wich, wych*—great village.

Great Barr, *v.* Barr (Great).

Great Bridge, h., 2 m. SW. of Wednesbury. 14 c. *Grete*; 16 c. *Greete*; 17 c. *Greet Bridge*. Stands on a stream formerly called 'Greet,' which divides the parishes of Westbromwich and Tipton, where it is crossed by the main road from Birmingham to Dudley. Greta and Greet are common river names. The root is perhaps A. S. *grēt* (from *grēotan*, M. E. *greten*), to greet, wail, murmur, &c. Poets write of 'murmuring streams' and 'babbling brooks,' and this river name appears to be one of the few of A. S. origin which have any poetry in their meaning. Indeed, as Greta and Greet are Scottish and Northern names, it is not unlikely that they have a Celtic origin.

Grindley, h., 4 m. SW. of Uttoxeter. 13 c. *Greneleye*, frequently. A. S. and M. E. *grēne*, green—the green lea (pasture), *v.* Ley. There is rich meadow-land here on the Blythe river.

Grindon, 5 m. NW. of Ilam. D. *Grendone*; 12 and 13 c. *Grendon*. A. S. *grēne dūn*—Green hill. Grendon and Grindon are common pl. names.

Gunston, h., 3 m. SW. of Brewood. 13 c. *Goneston, Gonestone, Gunstone*; 14 c. *Gunston*. The gen. *s* points to

a p. n. Neither *Gon* nor *Gun* alone was a p. n., but both formed prefixes to many names of which *Gon* or *Gun* may be a short form. *Gunnr* was an O. N. name introduced in the 10 c., and *Gun-* may here represent it. Our family name Gunn is probably O. N.

Haden Hill, Haden Cross, High Haden, h., in Rowley Regis, 4 m. SE. of Dudley, takes its name from a family of repute named Haden, living in Rowley Regis in 1417, and probably long before. Their descendants still live in the neighbourhood.

Halford, h., 2 m. NW. of Stourbridge. 1343 *Oldeforde* (juxta *Stapenhull*). This place is near the Stour river, where it is crossed by an ancient road from Shropshire (and Wolverhampton uniting at Himley) to Kidderminster, Worcester, and the South. The form explains the meaning.

Hales, h., 3 m. E. of Market Drayton. D. *Halas* (?); 13 and 14 c. *Hale, Hales*. *Hales* and *Halas* are plural forms of *healh*, which A. S. dictionaries treat as 'a word of doubtful meaning,' or misconstrue; but a reference to the charters leaves no doubt that it means 'meadow or pasture land,' and Stratmann (M. E. Dict.), under *halh*, so interprets it. In mediaeval deeds '*in* le Hale' or '*in* Hales' (meaning in the meadow, or meadows) are common forms; hence our family names Hale, Hales, and the numerous pl. names Hale, Hales, Haile, Hailes. Halesowen, in Worcestershire, in D. is *Halas*, a correct plural form of *healh*; and there the 'Leasowes' (A. S. *læswe*, meadow-land), the residence of the poet Shenstone, repeats the meaning of the locality. 'Owen' is a mediaeval addition given to distinguish it from other Hales, and because the manor was given by Henry II to his sister Emma, on her marriage with David ap Owen, Prince of North Wales, and their son Owen succeeded them. Some pl. names have 'Hales' as a suffix, e. g. Drayton-in-Hales, Betton-in-Hales, Sheriff-Hales, &c.

Hammerwich, 3 m. SW. of Lichfield. D. *Humerwiche*; 12 c. *Hamerwich, Hamerwiche*; 13 c. *Homerwich.* The terminal is plainly A. S. *wic*, M. E. *wich*, a village. A. S. *hamor, hamer, homer*, means a hammer; but 'hammer village' is a very unsatisfactory interpretation. I think the prefix represents an A. S. p. n. *Homa* and *Hama* were p. names, and I should read this as Homa or Hama's village.

Hamps, river, NE. Staffordshire, tributary of the Manifold. I have not met with any early forms of this name. I think it is M. E., and probably related to our verb 'hamper,' some of the meanings of which are 'to entangle, restrain, clog, hold back, fetter, shackle,' &c. The origin of the word 'hamper' is unknown, and it first occurs in our language circa 1350, when it is found as *hampre, hampres, hampris*, forms which might readily pass into 'Hamps.' The name, if my suggestion is right, would be in allusion to the eccentricity of the stream, which totally disappears into the earth and rises again, like its twin the Manifold. *V.* Dove.

Hamstall Ridware, *v.* Ridware (Hamstall).

Hamstead, h., in Handsworth, 3 m. NW. of Birmingham. 14 c. *Hamstede, Hampstede, Hamstid.* A. S. *hām-stede*, homestead. When *p* is introduced it is excrescent, and should be rejected.

Hanbury, 6 m. NW. of Burton-on-Trent. 13 c. *Hamburi, Hambyri, Hamberi, Hambery, Hambury*; 14 c. *Hanbury, Hambury*; 1430 *Hambury.* These forms are late, but, if we can trust them, Hanbury is properly Ha*m*bury. The change from *m* to *n* appears to have 'commenced' in the 14 c. Hanbury, in Worcestershire, was in A. S. *Heān-byrig*, high burgh (*v.* Bury). Here, upon the forms, the construction is 'the home burgh,' but I do not find *Hamburh* in any A. S. charter, and I doubt the accuracy of the *m.* If the *m* should be *n* then we have plain *Heanburh*, the high burgh, or borough.

Hanch, Hanch Hall, h., 3 m. NW. of Lichfield. M. E. *hanche*, from O. F. *hanche*, is an occasional field name, arising from the shape of the enclosure. Ex.: Haunchwood, nr. Tamworth. 'Haunch,' now the common form, displaced 'hanch' only in the 18 c.

Hanchurch, h., in Trentham, 3 m. SW. of Stoke-on-Trent. D. *Hancese*; 1296 and 1300 *Hanchurch*, frequently. The D. terminal *cese* represents A. S. *circe* (church). An A. S. form would probably be *Heāncirce*, high church.

Handsacre, 4 m. NW. of Lichfield. D. *Hadesacre*; 12 c. *Hendesacre, Hundesacre.* The terminal is A. S. *æcer*, which in pl. names is not a measure of land, but a field or fields of enclosed or defined land of any quantity. *Hund, Hunda*, meaning 'hound,' was an A. S. p. n., and I read this as Hund's field (or farm).

Handsworth, 3 m. NW. of Birmingham. D. *Honesworde*; 12 c. *Hunesworth, Honesworth*; 13 c. *Honesworth, Hunnesworth.* The terminal is A. S. *worth*, a farm, property (*v.* Worth). *Hun, Hune, Huna*, was an A. S. p. n., giving us here 'Hune's property (or farm).' *Hone* was not a p. n., and the form doubtless represents *Hun.* There was, in Warwickshire, a D. hundred of 'Honesberie,' now part of Kineton hundred.

Hanford, in Trentham, 3 m. SW. of Stoke-on-Trent. D. *Heneford*; 14 c. *Honeford, Honford.* I think these forms represent an A. S. *Heānford*, high ford. The village stands on a hill, near the foot of which the Trent is crossed by the great NW. Road.

Hanley, Potteries. 1332 *Hanley.* Having only one form, and that a late one, any opinion is liable to error. The best construction I can give is that Hanley represents an A. S. *Heānleage*, 'high lea' (*v.* Ley). An A. S. *hēan* generally becomes *han* in M. E.

Hanyard, h., in Tixall, 3½ m. E. of Stafford. 1227 *Hagonegate, Hageneyate*; 13 c. *Hanberyate, Hanyate.* This h.

is now represented by two farms, Upper and Lower Hanyard, on the borders of Tixall Park, an ancient enclosure, and near one of its entrances. The early forms look like the p. n. *Haguna*, gen. *Hagunan*, dat. *Hagan* of the Nibelungen-Lied. *Hagunan-geat* would give M. E. *Hagone-yate*, Haguna's gate. *V.* Haunton.

Harborne, 3 m. SW. of Birmingham. D. *Horeborne*; 12 c. *Horeborne*; 13 c. *Horeburn*, frequently; 14 c. *Horbourne*. The terminal is A. S. *burn*, *burne*, M. E. *borne*, *bourne*, a brook, stream. The prefix is undoubtedly A. S. *hār* (*ā* = *o*), M. E. *hār*, *hor*, *hore*, *hoor*, the meaning of which our dictionaries give as 'hoar, hoary, grey, old.' I do not dispute this interpretation, but contend that the word had another meaning (at least in compound), viz. 'boundary.' It is continually met with in those parts of A. S. charters which describe *the bounds* of the property dealt with, and never elsewhere. Bosworth-Toller translates *hār-hæth*, grey heath, *hāran-hæsel*, the grey hazel (and feels obliged to add 'with lichens'!), *hāran-apuldran*, the old apple tree, *hāran-stān*, grey stone, &c. We find in charters (always on boundaries) *hāran-wythie* (withy), *hore-wythege*, *hore-thorne*, *hāre-* and *hore-mapeldre* (maple-tree), *hare-lane*, *hore-cross*, *hoar-law* (tumulus), *horpyt* (pit), *hore-āc* (oak), *hore-clive* (hill), *hāran-læh* (lea), *hore-hyrne* (corner), *horestok* (now Warstock), &c. These extracts might be greatly extended. It would be manifestly absurd to translate some of these forms as 'grey,' or even 'old.' *Hārbourn* (according to authority) must be translated 'grey brook'; if 'old' was meant the form would be *ealdbourne*, and that is never found in A. S. charters. Harborne, being in Staffordshire, is divided from Worcestershire by a stream called Bournebrook, and I submit that the plain meaning of the name is 'boundary brook.' Mr. William Hamper published an exhaustive article in Archæologia, 1832, p. 30, on 'Hoar-stones,' and the meaning of the word 'Hoar,' which he contends to be 'boundary.' The Century Dictionary trans-

lates 'hoar-stone' as 'a stone marking the bounds of an estate; a landmark.' The H. E. D. has not yet reached the word. (PS. It has now; and under 'Hoar,' says (3):—'Used frequently as an attribute of various objects named in ancient charters as marking a boundary line. *Obs.* Hence in many place names.' '*Hoar-stone*' is also accepted as meaning 'an ancient boundary stone, mere-stone.')

Harden, h., 2 m. N. of Walsall. 14 c. *Haworthyn, Hawerthyn, Hawardyn*; 15 c. *Hawardyne*; 16 c. *Hawrden, Hawredene*; 1648 *Harden.* This is an A. S. name, the original form of which would be *heahworthyn,* the high farm or estate. For the passage of *worthyn* into *wardine v.* Worth. The hamlet stands very high, and is an ancient enclosure in the Forest of Cannock. The adjoining locality is still called 'the Forest.' Hawarden, in Flintshire, has the same root, and is pronounced Harden.

Harlaston, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of Tamworth. 1004 *Heorlfestun*; c. 1100 *Heorlaveston*; D. *Horulvestune*; 12 c. *Herlavestone, Erlaveston*; 13 c. *Horlaveston.* The terminal is A. S. *tūn,* town (*v.* Ton), and the gen. *es* points to a p. n., the original form of which would be *Heorulāf*—Heorulaf's town.

Harracles Hill, Harracles Mill, 2 m. W. of Leek. 13 c. *Harecheles*; 17 c. *Haracles, Herracles.* The 13 c. form is entitled to the most credit, and I think must be treated as a compound of *Har* and *echeles.* I construe *Har* as meaning boundary (*v.* Harborne), and *echeles* a ladder or staircase (*v.* Nechells) = the two-storied house on the boundary. I do not know what boundary Harracles is near.

Hartwell, 4 m. N. of Stone. 1361 *Hertwalle.* The M. E. terminal *welle.* a spring, frequently passes into *walle.* I have no doubt the right form is *well,* giving us 'the Hart's spring' (A. S. *heort,* M. E. *hert,* hart, male red deer). *Hart-,* as a prefix, plays a great part in pl. names, as does *Hind-,* female red deer. Before the 14 c. red deer evidently

overran the country, and every man was more or less a hunter.

Haselour, 5 m. N. of Tamworth. 13 c. *Hazeloure*; 14 c. *Haselovere*; 1796 *Haselover* or *Haselor*. A. S. *hæsel*, M. E. *hasel, hazel*, hazel, and A. S. *ofer, o̊re*, a bank, margin (of a stream or hill-side)—'the hazel bank.' There was no *v* in A. S., *f* performing its functions.

Hatherton, 2 m. NW. of Cannock. 996 *Hagenthorndun*; D. *Hargedone*; 13 c. *Hatherdene, Hetherdon, Hatherdone*. This is an illustration of the value of early forms: without the record of 996 we should be led astray. *Hagathorn* is A. S. for hawthorn, and *hagen-* is the gen., so that we have, very accurately, 'the hill of the hawthorn.'

Hatton, Hattons (The). These are common names in the Midlands; but, as they are generally single homesteads, or hamlets, it is rarely that they can be traced to A. S. roots. By the 13 and 14 c. they had become 'Hatton'; but, whenever I have been able to trace them, the A. S. form has been *Hæthtūn*, heath town. So *Hæthfeld* has become Hatfield; *Hæthleah*, Hadleigh or Hatley; and *Hæthdūn* (heathy hill), Haddon or Hatton.

Haughton, 4 m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Haltone*; 12 c. *Halecton*; 13 c. *Halington, Halechtone, Halctone, Halegtone, Haluchtone*; 14 c. *Haleughton*. The root of this is A. S. *healh*, of which *halch, halech* (pr. something like *haluch*) are M. E. forms. All the forms are corruptions, or dialectic forms, of *halch*. Haughton is a common pl. n. 'Halloughton' is only another form of it, both meaning 'the town in the meadows.' *V.* Hales.

Haunton, h., in Clifton Camville, 4 m. NE. of Tamworth. 942 *Hagnatun*; 13 c. *Hagheneton, Hanneton, Anneton. Hagan, Hagana, Haguna, Hagene*, (variants) was an A. S. p. n. The original form, taking the last variant, would be *Hagenan-tūn*, passing, in M. E., to *Hagene-tūn*, Hagene's town, *g* between vowels having the sound of *y*. *V.* Hanyard.

Hawkbach, an ancient homestead in Upper Arley, on Severn, 2 m. NW. of Bewdley. 14 c. *Haukebache, Hawkebache.* A. S. *hafoc*, M. E. *hauke, hawke*, a hawk. The terminal *bach* is a common one in Salop, and rare in Staffordshire; Hawkbach is on the border. It is A. S. *bæch, bæce* (*ce* = *ch*), a bottom, valley with a stream through it. The word is not yet recognized in A. S. dictionaries, though it is frequently met with in the charters, and is perversely translated 'beech' (tree). Layamon, who lived at Lower Arley, and wrote his poems in the 12 c., frequently uses the words *bæch, bache* (according to the case), in the sense of 'valley.' This is clearly 'Hawk valley.' The H. E. D. recognizes *bache* as of 'origin doubtful,' meaning 'the vale of a stream or rivulet.' *Hawke* was a M. E. p. n., and it is possible (the forms being only 14 c.) that the prefix may represent the p. n.

Haywood (Great), h., 5 m. NW. of Rugeley. D. *Haiwode*; 12 and 13 c. *Haywode, Heywood, Heiwode.* Haywood abuts on the ancient bounds of Cannock Forest (the Trent). Haywood Park was within the Forest, and was enclosed by the bishops of Lichfield, who were great landowners hereabout. The meaning of the name is 'the fenced or enclosed wood' (A. S. *haga*, an enclosure). 'Great' is a late M. E. addition, made, probably, when Little Haywood sprang up. The earliest record I have of *Little Haywode* is in 1432.

Hednesford, h., 2 m. NE. of Cannock. 13 and 14 c. *Hedenesford, Edenesford.* A. S. p. n. *Heoden.* It appears in *Hednesdene* (Heoden's valley), Cart. Sax. 544. Henshaw, in Haltwhistle, was anciently written *Hednes-halgh* (Heoden's meadow-land). An ancient road, I believe a British trackway from London to Chester, passes through Hednesford, and fords a stream in the middle of the 'old' village.

Heighley (or **Helegh**) **Castle,** 4½ m. W. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. D. *Heolla*; 13 c. *Helley, Helegh.* Nothing can be made of these forms in A. S. I think the root is

W. *heol*, *heolau*, a road, way. *Heol-y-gwint* is the Milky Way. If this assignment is correct D. has done extremely well with a W. root. Heleigh does not appear to be situate on any 'Roman' way, but it is upon, or close to, a thoroughfare road from the SE. to Nantwich, and all salt towns were anciently the centres of considerable traffic.

Hextons or **Extons,** homestead and farm in Upper Arley, 3 m. N. of Bewdley. 1227 *Hekstane*; 1295 *Hexton*; 14 c. *Hekstane, Hextane, Hecston, Hexton, Hecstan.* This is A. S. *hæc*, gen. *hæcce*, M. E. *hec*, *hek*, *hacche*, &c., a hatch, and A. S. *stān*, stone—the hatch stone. Hatch has various meanings, the lower part of a divided door, a wicket gate, a flood gate. The word is also applied to an instrument for catching fish, made in the form of lattice-work or a grating, and as Extons is close to the Severn the word may be used in that sense. The place gave name to a family of Heggeston, Exston, or Hexton (as they variously spelt themselves). One of the Hextons was a Bristol merchant, and in 1485 gave 'Hextons' to the Collegiate Church of Westbury-on-Trym. They parted with it in 1501. Though this is a place of small importance, it is a good illustration of the way in which pl. names and family names are built up. 'Excellent grindle-stones are dug out of a quarry at "Hextons," and when first discovered (about 1680) proved a great benefit to the country, which abounded then, as it does now, with numerous manufacturers in iron, who, before that time, were obliged to procure their grindle-stones from Derbyshire and other distant parts. Of late years several quarries of the same kind of stone have been found in this neighbourhood (Upper Arley), so that the Hexton grindle-stones are not now so much sought after' (Nash's Worcestershire, ii. App. I). (This was written by Bishop Lyttelton of Carlisle about the middle of the 18 c.) *V.* Extall.

High Offley, *v.* Offley (High).

High Onn, *v.* Onn (High).

Hilderstone, 3 m. E. of Stone. D. *Heldulvestune*; 13 c. *Hildulveston, Hildelveston, Hyldeleston, Hyldreston.* A. S. p. n. *Hildewulf*—Hildewulf's town (*v.* Ton). The meaning of the p. n. is 'Warrior wolf.'

Hill Chorlton, h., 1¼ m. S. of Whitmore. 12 c. *Hulle,* frequently. M. E. *hull,* hill. Chapel Chorlton (q. v.) is a mile S., and Hill has evidently borrowed from it, in mediaeval times, the second portion of its name for distinction.

Hill Ridware, *v.* Ridware (Hill).

Hilton, h., in Shenstone, 3 m. SE. of Lichfield. 1332 *Hulton.* A. S. *hyl,* M. E. *hull,* a hill—Hill town (*v.* Ton). It is situate on a slight eminence in a plain.

Hilton, 5 m. NE. of Wolverhampton. 994 *Hilton*; 1271 *Hulton. V.* Hilton, in Shenstone. The ancient manor house and locality occupy elevated land.

Himley, 5 m. S. of Wolverhampton. D. *Himelie*; 12 c. *Humilileg* (*g* = *y*), *Humileg*; 13 c. *Humilele, Hymele, Humeleye.* The terminal is plainly *lea,* pasture, untilled land (*v.* Ley). *Hemele* was an A. S. p. n., but the possessive gen. is lacking in all the forms. I think the prefix is A. S. *hymele,* the hop plant. Himbleton, in Worcestershire, in 816 and in 884, was *Hymeltūn* (in D. *Himeltun*). Hemlington, in Yorkshire, in D., is *Himeligetun,* and Hambleton, same county, is *Humelton.* These D. prefixes appear to be the same as here. I construe Himley 'the lea of the hop (plant).' It is not a hop locality now; but it is warm and sheltered, and may have been; indeed the name may refer to the wild hop. *Humulus* is L. for hop; the Anglo-Saxons may have borrowed their form from it.

Hinksford, h., 2 m. NW. of Kingswinford, on the Smestow and a tributary stream. 1271 *Henkeston*; 1300 *Hinkesford.* The A. S. form here would be *Hengestestūn* (or *-ford*); if *-ford,* the meaning is Hengest's ford. Pl. names in A. S. charters commencing *Hengest-* have now become Hinx- or Hinks-; hence those family names.

Hints, 6 m. SE. of Lichfield. D. *Hintes*; 13 c., frequently, *Hyntes*; later *Hints*. This is W. *hynt*, a way, road. The village lies on Watling Street. There is a 'Hints' in Cainham, 3 m. E. of Ludlow.

Hixon, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of Stafford. D. *Hustedone*; 13 c. *Huntesdun*, *Huhtesdon*, *Hucstedon*, *Huccesdon*, *Huncesdon*, *Huntesdon*, *Hughcesdon*; 14 c. *Hughcesdon*; 16 c. *Hickston otherwise Hixeton*. The terminal is clearly A. S. *dūn*, a hill, and the prefix a p. n. like *Huctred*, or some guttural name with *ch* in it. Hixon stands on a hill, bordering the valley of the Trent. This name illustrates the value of early forms and the folly of 'guess' by modern forms. (This is a puzzle. Some forms, and the modern one, suggest *Hengestes dūn*. W. H. S.) *V.* Hinksford.

Hoar Cross, 10 m. NE. of Lichfield. 1262 *La Croiz*; 1267 *Orcross*; 1248 *Harecres*; 1268 *Horecros*; 1513 *Whorecrose*. It was a custom to set up crosses to mark the limits of an estate or manor. Needwood Forest (temp. Elizabeth) was divided into four wards or bailiwicks, Tutbury, Marchington, Yoxall, and Barton. According to the perambulations all the wards met at Hoar Cross. The meaning is 'boundary cross.' *V.* Harborne.

Hobs Hole, Aldridge; **Hobs Hole,** nr. Willenhall; **Hobs Hole,** Wednesbury. *Hob* is a M. E. word for a sprite, an elf, a hobgoblin. *Hole* in M. E. means a hollow, dingle, or small valley. *Hob* and *Pouke* have the same meaning; *v.* Pouke Hill.

Holbeach, homestead in Himley, 5 m. S. of Wolverhampton. 1300 and 1327 *Holebache*. A. S. *hol*, M. E. *hole*, a hollow, and A. S. *bæch*, M. E. *bache*, a valley—the hollow (or deep) valley (*v.* Hawkbach). Holbeach was the scene of the death and capture of some of the conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot.

Hollington, h., 4 m. SE. of Cheadle. 13 c. *Holyngton*. A. S. *holen*, *holegn*, M. E. *hollen*, *holin*, the holly (tree)—the town in the hollies (*v.* Ton).

Hoo (The), Hoe (The). This is a common name, and there are several examples of it in Staffordshire, generally hamlets or single homesteads. It is A. S. *hōh*, M. E. *hoo*, a hill.

Hopwas, 2 m. W. of Tamworth. 11 c. *Hopewaes*; D. *Opewas*; 12 c. *Hopwas*. A. S. *hōp*, M. E. *hope*, a valley, and A. S. *wase*, *wæs* (Older, *ge-wæsc*), a swamp, marsh. Hopwas lies in the Tame valley, at the foot of a ridge, and much of it is liable to flood. The meaning of the name is substantially 'the marshy valley.' In Mod. E. a *wash* is a piece of ground washed by the sea or a river, sometimes overflowed, and sometimes dry, a morass, a marsh, &c. *V.* Alrewas.

Horninglow, h., 2 m. N. of Burton-on-Trent. 13 c. *Horninglow*, *Horninglawe*, frequently. The terminal is A. S. *hlæw*, M. E. *lawe*, *low*, a burial-mound (*v.* Low). *Horn* is a recorded A. S. p. n., and probably *Horning* was one also, as in charters we meet with such forms as *Horningaden*, *Horningdun*, *Horningga*, *Horningamære*, *Horningeseie*, &c. I read this as 'Horning's burial-mound,' though it may be that the *ing* is patronymic or possessive.

Houndhill, an ancient estate in Marchington, 5 m. SE. of Uttoxeter. 13 c. *Hunhyle*, *Hunhyl*, *Hogenhull*; 14 c. *Howenhull*, *Hounhull*, *Hounhul*. The terminal is A. S. *hyl*, M. E. *hull*, a hill. The prefix in the forms is confused; but it probably represents A. S. *hund*, M. E. *hund*, *hond*, a hound; but then *Hund*, *Hunda*, was an A. S. p. n., and it is more likely that the place was named after a man than a dog, though Houndhill lay in the Forest of Needwood. Hounslow, nr. London, was in A. S. *Hundeshlæw*, Hund's burial-mound. There *Hund* doubtless represents a p. n., as it is improbable that a 'low' would be raised over or named after a dog. (The forms *Hogenhull* and *Howenhull* suggest the p. n. *Hoga*, 'the prudent.' W. H. S.)

Huntington, 2 m. N. of Cannock. 1262 *Huntingdon*;

1271 and 1300, and later, *Huntyndon*. A. S. *hunta*, gen. *huntan*, a hunter, and *dūn*, a hill—the hunter's hill; but *Hunta* and *Hunting* were p. names, and we are left in doubt. Huntington was a hamlet in the heart of Cannock Forest, and a very likely place for a hunter, or forest official, to live in. There is a disused moated site here, and anciently there was a chapel, the site of which is still known as Chapel Field.

Hyde (The), an ancient estate, 1 m. SW. of Brewood. Always *Hyde*. A. S. *hīd*, *hide*, did not mean a measure or fixed quantity of land, but an estate or farm; originally 'as much land as would support one family,' necessarily a flexible quantity. This estate belonged, from remote times, to the Lanes of Bentley, now of Kings Bromley.

Icknield Street, Roman way, running N. and S. through the counties of Gloucester, Worcester, Warwick, Stafford, and Derby. 12 c. *Ad regalem viam quae vocatur Ikenhilde-strete; Stratam regiam quae appellatur Ykenild; via regia vel le Ricnelde strete*; 13 c. *Rikelinge strete*; 14 c. *Ryken-yldstrete* (the above extracts, except the first, relate to parts of the road between Lichfield and Derby); 13 c. *le Stanway* (a common local name for Roman roads); *Ykenilde stret*, *Ykenhilde stret*; these relate to the street in Shenstone parish. I take the name to have been in A. S. *Icenhilde*. This 'Icknield' Street appears to join the Foss Way (Exeter to Lincoln, via Bath, Cirencester, Stow-on-the-Wold, High Cross, Leicester, and Newark) 3 m. SW. of Stow-on-the-Wold. It is plain, or traceable, northwards to Chesterfield, in Derbyshire. The Ordnance map shows no further trace. If made further the street should pass about 2 m. E. of Sheffield, but there is nothing to justify the belief that it was continued. It may have been intended to join the Ermine Street nr. Pontefract, but from Chesterfield to Pontefract is about 40 m. without sign. The road may have turned NE.

beyond Chesterfield, and joined the Ermine Street at Doncaster, but again there is no evidence that it did. There is an 'Icknield Way' (not a Roman road as commonly supposed, but a British trackway) running NE. and SW. from Avebury in Wilts, through Wallingford, Princes Risborough, Dunstable, Hitchin, Baldock, Royston, and through Cambridgeshire into Norfolk. This road is mentioned in numerous 10 c. charters, as *Yceniłde weg* (*g* = *y*), *Iccenhilde wege*, *Icenhilde weg*, *Icenhille*, *Icenhylte*, *Cinges strœte*, and similar forms. Another way, apparently Roman, now called in part Mear Lane, between Derby and Chesterton nr. Stoke-on-Trent (via Rocester and Draycot on the Moors), is called *Richmilde streete* in a charter of 1257 (the *m* should probably be read *n*). There is another road, apparently Roman, running E. and W. 3 m. S. of Burford, in Oxfordshire, marked on Ordnance map 'Ikenild Way,' on what authority I know not. Thorpe Salvin, 5 m. NW. of Worksop, was anciently *Rikenhildthorp*, but does not appear to have had any connexion with this street. It is clear that 'Icknield' (*Riknield* I think a corruption) is a generic name, as Watling Street is, given by the Anglo-Saxons to Roman or British lines of road. We have no evidence what, if any, names the Romans gave to their roads, and the Anglo-Saxons probably invented names for themselves. A tribe of Iceni are said to have inhabited Norfolk, and the Icknield Way from Avebury leads direct to their country. But this Icknield Street had no connexion with the Iceni, or with that road, and must have some other meaning which I cannot divine. Possibly the name is wholly or partly allegorical, like Watling Street (q. v.). Dr. Guest (Origines Celticae, ii. 228) translates *Icenhilde weg* 'the highway (or military way) of the *Iceni*.' It is true that *hilde* means 'war, battle,' but it is a poetical word only, and no instance of its use in compound with *weg* or *strœt* is to be found.

Ilam, 5 m. NW. of Ashbourne. 1006 *Hilum*; 13 c.

Hilum, *Illum*, *Hylum*, *Ilum*. In A.S. *hyllum* is the dat. pl. of *hyl*, a hill, and the plain meaning of the name is 'at the hills.' The whole manor is hill and dale. Laneham, in Notts, was *Lanum*, 'at the lanes'; Halam, in Notts, was *aet Halum*, at the hills.

Ingestre, 4 m. NE. of Stafford. D. *Gestreon*; 13 c. *Ingestraund*, *Ingestrent*, *Ingestre* (frequently), *Yngestre*. Here D. seems to be quite at sea, and though the river Trent bounds the manor, I do not think it plays any part in the present form of the name. *Ing*, *Inga*, was an A.S. p. n., and the terminal *tre* doubtless represents A.S. *treow*, *treo*, M.E. *tree*, *tre*, a tree; perhaps because Ing's property was bounded by some notable tree, or because he lived near one. I do not reject the terminals *straund* and *trent*. A.S. *strand*, M.E. *stronde*, meant (*inter alia*) the shore or bank of a river. It is possible that the name was in an unsettled state, hovering for a time between Inge's strand, Inge's trent, and Inge's tree; but of the prefix there can be no doubt.

Ipstones, 5 m. NW. of Cheadle. 12 c. *Yppestan*; 13 c. *Ippestanes* frequently, *Yppestanes*; 14 c. *Ippestanes*. The terminal is A.S. *stanes*, stones. The prefix is probably A.S. *ỳppe*, a raised, or look-out place = the look-out stone or stones (the first form being singular, and the later forms plural). Places are not uncommonly named from their commanding situations and being resorted to as look-out places in time of war. Ibstone, 9 m. W. of High Wycombe, is *Ypestan* in D. *V. Tettenhall.*

Ivetsie Bank, h., 4 m. NW. of Brewood. 13 c. *Oveyhotes haye*, *Ovetls hay*, *Uvetshay*; 14 c. *Ovyhetteshay*, *Oviotes-hay*; 17 c. *Ivittsay*, *Ivettshay*. The terminal *haye*, *hay*, means a hedge, enclosure (*v.* Hay). The prefix represents the A.S. p. n. *Ufegeat*. With the Conquest *f* commonly became *v*, and, the *g* being sounded *y*, *Ufegeat* would yield the forms quoted. The meaning of the name is therefore

'Ufegeat's hay.' Down to the time of King John the locality was in Brewood Forest, which John disafforested. Enclosure would then set in; but even two centuries ago the country between Brewood and Shiffnal was mostly waste. The hamlet, which consists principally of a noted roadside inn on Watling Street, stands on a hill, hence 'Bank'; but that is a late addition. *Ufegeat* is only a late form of *Wulfgeat*. The name appears in D. as *Ulfiet* and *Ulviet*.

Keele, 3 m. SW. of Newcastle. Not in D.; 12 c. *Kiel* frequently. Nothing can be made of this in A. S., and I think it must be Celtic. W. *cell*, I. *ceal*, *cille*, G. *cill* (*c*=*k*), M. *Keeyl*, *Kill*, mean a cell belonging to a hermit or monastery, a small church. In Ireland, where small churches abounded, over 2000 pl. names commence *Kyle-*, *Keel-*, or *Kil-*. The Celts probably borrowed the word from L. *cella* (*c* hard). The name does not appear to be O. N., in which *kirk* = church. Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire, in D. is *Keilmersc*; Keelby, N. Lincolnshire, and Kelby, S. Lincolnshire, in D. are *Chelebi* (*ch* = *k*). These prefixes have doubtless the same root and meaning as Keele. Cf. also 'Keel' (2) in Montgomeryshire.

Kings Bromley, *v.* Bromley (Kings).

Kingsley, 2½ m. NE. of Cheadle. D. *Chingeslei* (*ch*=*k*); 13 c. *Kynggesley*. A. S. *cyning*, *cyng*, *cing* (gen. *cinges*), and *ley* (q. v.), the King's lea; probably because the manor, or part of it, belonged at some time to the Crown. *Cyng* was not an A. S. p. n., but *Cyne*, 'royal, bold,' was, and formed the prefix to many compound names. King only became a family name about the 13 c.

King's Standing, a tumulus on Perry Barr Common, 3 m. SW. of Sutton Coldfield. The Forest and Chase of Sutton Coldfield says (p. 117): 'King's Standing is a small artificial mound, reputed to be the position occupied by

Charles I when reviewing troops brought up by the Staffordshire gentry, on October 16, 1642. He was then on his way to Meriden, from a two days' visit at Aston Hall, and continued his journey by the Chester road.' Shaw (History of Staffordshire, i. 17) describes King's Standing as 'a little artificial mount where Charles I is said to have stood when he harangued the troops he brought out of Shropshire at the beginning of the civil war.' Mr. Wm. Fowler, in his pamphlet, History of Erdington, p. 7, says: 'In 1642 Charles stayed (at Aston Hall) two nights, the 16th and 17th October; and on the 18th reviewed the troops on the waste land near Sutton Park at the spot still called the King's Standing.' Unfortunately none of these writers give any authority for their statements. We know that Charles I was at Bridgnorth on October 14, 1642, and at Edgehill on the 23rd, so it may be correct, and I am not aware that the locality was known as King's Standing before 1642. But it is unlikely that the mound now there was thrown up for the purpose mentioned. It is doubtless a prehistoric tumulus, though it may have been utilized by Charles. It lies on an eminence on the Coldfield, within two hundred yards of the Icknield Street (now enclosed and effaced), and a thousand yards of the Chester road. The mound is about twenty feet in diameter, and five feet high in the centre, and is enclosed with iron hurdles and planted with young trees.

Kingswinford. 10 c. *Swinford*; 1023 *Swinford*; D. *Suinesford*; 12 c. *Suinesford*. I think this is A. S. *swīn*, swine—the swine's ford. The manor lay on the borders of Kinver Forest, where the pasturage of swine was of importance. *Swegen* (*g*=*y*) was a p. n. introduced by the Danes. It is spelt *Swen*, *Suin*, *Swain*, *Suien*, &c., but, as it appears only after the 10 c., it cannot have influenced this name. 'Kings' is a mediaeval addition to distinguish it from other Swinfords, it being a royal manor at the time of D., and

therefore of 'ancient demesne.' This tenure conferred great privileges on manorial tenants. They could only be sued in their own local court (save by special writ from the king); were not liable to serve on juries out of the manor, were toll free, and enjoyed other cherished immunities.

Kinvaston, an estate and D. manor, 2 m. SW. of Penkridge. 994 *Cynwaldestun*; D. *Chenwardestone*; 1224 *Kynewaldeston*. A. S. p. n. *Cyneweald*—Cyneweald's town (*v.* Ton).

Kinver, or **Kinfare,** 4 m. SW. of Stourbridge. 736 *the wood called Cynibre*; 964 *Cynefare*; D. *Chenevare* (*ch* = *k* and *v* = *f*); 12 c. *Kenefare, Chenefare.* Changes of terminal, or even of name, were not uncommon in primitive times. Assuming that *Cynibre* refers to Kinver, of which I think there can be no doubt, I translate it 'Royal hill' (A. S. *cyne*, royal, W. *bre*, hill, *v.* Brewood). In 736 Kinver was close to the Welsh border, and the Anglo-Saxons so frequently used the word *bre*, as in Bredon, Brehull, Bray, &c., that I incline to think they borrowed the word from the Welsh, though it has not found its way into A. S. dictionaries. This name I should attribute to the fact of Kinver Forest being hunting ground for the early kings, and their having a royal residence or lodge within it, as after mentioned. *Cynefare* I translate royal road; A. S. *fær*, later *fare*, a way, road. *Cyne-stræt* is given in Bosworth-Toller as a royal street or road. In M. E. *fare* and *vare* are synonyms, hence Kinfare or Kinver. *Fare* is still used in thorough-*fare* (A. S. *thurh-fær*). Kinver may derive its name from being on the way to the king's house; or from its situation on a Roman way from Chester to Worcester, Gloucester, and Bath, which continued to be a considerable thoroughfare until the early part of the 18 c., when the construction of turnpike roads through Newport, Wolverhampton, and Kidderminster diverted the traffic. The royal hunting lodge was situate on Castle Hill, or Baron Hill (it bears both

names), two miles SW. of Kinver, in Wolverley manor. Half a mile E., where the road to Castle Hill crosses a stream, is an old homestead called Kingsford, which in a charter of 964 appears as *cenunga ford*, the king's ford. In the same charter, and also in a charter of 866 relating to Wolverley, a place is mentioned as *Cuthredes treow*, Cuthred's tree. I think it probable that Cuthred, King of the West Saxons, 740–56, is here referred to. Kinver (*Cynefare*) means literally 'the King's highway.'

Knaves Castle, a small tumulus on the S. side of Watling Street, Brownhills, 5 m. SW. of Lichfield. 13 c. *to a place called Cnaven castle*; afterwards *Knaves Castle.* Earthworks and tumuli are commonly called 'castle.' This is A. S. *cnafa* (dat. *cnafan*), M. E. *cnave, knave*, a boy, a servant. The meaning of the name therefore is 'the burial-mound of the boy' (or 'servant'). In M. E. a boy is frequently termed 'knave-child'; male servants were commonly called 'knaves'; the knave in cards is only the queen's page; rogue is quite a modern meaning. The tumulus is now almost obliterated, and is enclosed in a garden. Sixty years ago it was very plain. By the side of the London road, 5½ m. SE. of Coventry, is a tumulus called Knightlow. In A. S. *cniht* and *cnafe* both meant a boy or servant. Knightlow has therefore precisely the same meaning as Knaves Castle. *V.* Knightley.

Knightley, h., in Gnosall, 5 m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Chenistlei*; 14 c. *Knyghteleye.* The prefix is A. S. *cniht*, M. E. *cniht, knight,* a boy, servant. D. and O. F. scribes wrote A. S. *cn-* 'chen-,' and *cniht* 'chenist-.' In A. S. *cniht* and *cnafe* were synonyms (*v.* Knaves Castle). After the Conquest *cniht, knight,* came to mean also a man-at-arms, a soldier; and later, a man of gentle birth trained to arms. As the name here is clearly of A. S. origin, we may construe it 'the Knight's lea' (*v.* Ley), yet we must remember that 'knight' meant a boy or servant.

Knighton, h., in Adbaston, 5½ m. SW. of Eccleshall. **Knighton,** h., in Muckleston, 7½ m. NW. of Eccleshall. I have only one form, in 1341, *Knighton-in-le-Hales*, and do not know to which place it refers. Here the form is M. E., and the meaning may be 'the boy's (or servant's) town,' or 'the soldier's town.' The probability is that the name is of A. S. origin, and, if so, the latter meaning must be excluded (*v.* Knightley). *In le halcs* means 'in the meadows' (*v.* Hales). By the time of Wycliffe 'knight' had come to mean a man-at-arms; his Bible (1389), Matt. xxvii. 27, says: 'Thanne knyghtis of the justise token Jhesus in the moot-halle, and gaderiden (gathered) to him all the company of knightes.' Pl. names commencing Knight- are very common, and their construction is always open to the difficulty that *Cniht* was an A. S. p. n., though a rare one.

Knowl. A common name for outlying homesteads in NE. Staffordshire, but rare in the S. of the county. It is A. S. *cnoll*, M. E. *knol*, the top or crown of a hill, generally a gently rounded hill or mount. The name is rarely manorial, but D. records two 'Cnolle' in Dorsetshire.

Knowl (Long), old farm, Wednesfield, 3 m. NE. of Wolverhampton. 13 c. *le Knolle*. *V.* Knowl.

Knutton, h., 1 m. NW. of Newcastle-under-Lyme. D. *Clotone*; 13 c. *Cnoton*, *Cnotton*, and *Knotton* frequently. D. blunders, as usual, over the A. S. *cn*. The terminal is *ton*, town (q.v.). A. S. *cnotta*, M. E. *knotte*, means a knot; but it is difficult to suppose the name has reference to that meaning. The Century Dictionary gives, as one of the meanings of *knot*, 'a rocky summit (Prov. Eng.).' I doubt if Knutton ever had 'a rocky summit.' In Westmoreland we have a mountain named Hard*knot*, and places named Scald *Knot* and School *Knot*. It may be that *cnot* represents the p. n. *Cnut*, but the possessive *s* is lacking. Knutsford I take to be Cnut's ford.

Knypersley, h., 3 m. N. of Abbots Bromley. 13 c.

Knypresley frequently, *Knypersleye*. I am unable to translate *Knypre*. The possessive *s* points to a p. n., which can hardly be *Cnapa*, the nearest of recorded forms. The terminal is 'lea,' pasture-land (*v.* Ley).

Landywood, h., in Great Wyrley, 5 m. NW. of Walsall. I have no early forms, and assume the M. E. form would be *Laund i' th' wode*. It was within the limits of Cannock Forest, and in the 13 and 14 c., as the Forest records show, the locality was wild land, abounding with deer and game. *Launde* is a M. E. word (derived from O. F. *lande*, *launde*), and is the root of Mod. E. *lawn*. Its original meaning was a plain sprinkled with trees or bush, an open space between woods, a forest glade. Shakespeare says:

> 'Under this thick-grown brake we'll shroud ourselves,
> For through this *laund* anon the deer will come.'

Lapley, 4 m. SW. of Penkridge. D. *Lepelie*; 12 c. *Lapelie*, *Lappely*. *Lepe* or *Lape* has no meaning in A. S. I think the prefix represents the A. S. p. n. *Hlappa*—Hlappa's lea (*v.* Ley). Lapworth, in Warwickshire, was in A. S. *Hlappawurth*, Hlappa's farm.

Latherford, h., in Shareshill, 4 m. SW. of Cannock. 1358 *Lodresford*, *Lodderford*. The h. is situate on a by-way there crossed by a brook. In A. S. *loddere*, *lodre*, means a beggar, and this may be translated Beggar's ford; but *Hlothere* (later *Lothere*) was an A. S. p. n., and I think that construction quite as likely, *d* and *th* being so frequently interchanged. At the same time we find in A. S. charters *Loddere beorh*, *Loddere-lacu*, *Loddera-stræt*, *Lodderthorn*, *Lodreswei*, which must be translated Beggar's-hill, -lake (or brook), -street, -thorn, -way.

Leek. D. *Lec*; 12 c. *Lech*, frequently; 13 c. *Lake*, *Lek*, *Lec*. Nothing sensible can be made of these forms in A. S. I think Leek possessed its name before the Saxons came

here, and that it is Celtic. In W. *llech* (*ch* = *k*), and in I. and G. *leac*, mean a flag (flat) stone. In Ireland *Lick-* is a common prefix, e. g. Lickmolassey, the flagstone of Molaise (St.); Lickeen, little rock; Lickfinn, white flagstone. In Scotland Leck- and Lick-, as prefixes, are common. The Lickey, nr. Bromsgrove, is an English example, the *ey* representing 'hay'; on a portion of the Lickey the rocks are exposed and laminated. The word may be applied to the appearance of rocks *in situ*, or to a solitary flat stone.

Levedale, h., 2 m. NW. of Penkridge. D. *Levehale*; 12 c. *Levedale, Levedhal, Levedhale*; 13 c. *Levedale.* I cannot interpret this.

Lichfield. Before the Conquest, beginning with Bede (7 c.), Lichfield appears as *Liccedfeld, Licceifelde, Liceifeld, Liccefeld, Lyccidfelth, Lyceitfeld, Lichefeld, Lichesfeld*; D. has it *Lecefelle* and *Licefelle*; 12 c. it is *Lechesfelde, Licheſfelde, Lichefelde, Licheffeld*; 13 c. *Lychefelde, Lichefeld.* Plot (History of Staffordshire, p. 398) says: 'A ground called Christianfield, near Stitchbrook, is said to be the place where St. Amphibalus taught the British Christians converted by the Martyrdom of St. Alban, who, flying from the bloody persecution of Maximian, raised in Britan, An. 286, followed him hither, from the place of their conversion, where the Romans that were sent after them (some say from Verulam, others from Etocetum, now Wall, as the tradition goes) finding them in the exercise of their Religion, tooke them and carryed them to the place where Lichfield now is, and martyred 1,000 of them, leaving their bodies to be devoured by birds and beasts, whence the place yet retains the name of Lichfield, the field of dead bodies; to this day, the City bearing for their device, rather than Armes an Escocheon of Landskip with many Martyrs in it, in severall manners massacred.' This absurd story was supported by the belief that the prefix represented A. S. *lic* (*c* = *ch*), a body (living or dead), and that Lichfield meant 'the field of dead bodies.'

The Corporation seal represents three slain kings lying on a field. Absurd etymologies were as plentiful three or four centuries ago as now, and were freely endorsed by public bodies. Berne adopts a bear as part of its coat of arms, and the Corporation maintains living bears, under the assumption that the name means a bear (*beeren*), when, in truth, it is *Bern, Bernen*, a drag-net. But then bears are more romantic, and stories of them more expansive, than fishing nets. Antwerp has an absurd legend about a giant who cut off merchants' hands and threw them into the river; the name, it was supposed, sanctioning the story, though it really means 'opposite the embankment'; yet municipal and religious customs perpetuate the old fable (*v.* Hist. of Names, by Mordacque, ii. 237). Stukeley (Itin. iv. 66) says: '*Leche* signifies a watery place subject to inundations, as Leach, a town nr. Boston before mentioned, anciently written *Leche*, as Camden says of Northleach, and Lichfield hence fetches its etymology from the marshy bog that environs the church, rather than the superstitious notion there current.' Shaw (History of Staffordshire, i. 231) says: 'The city has its name from its watery situation, undoubtedly'; and in a note: '*Liccian*, in Saxon, signifies to water, or cover land with water, whence comes *lece*, *lec*, *lice*, *lich*, *lace*, by us called lake, for the Saxons were not fond of the letter *k*.' (They did not use it.) Mr. Henry Bradley, a philologist of the highest rank, and an editor of the H. E. D., writes in the Academy for Oct. 30, 1886, and Nov. 9, 1889, articles identifying Lichfield with a *Caer Luitcoet* mentioned by Nennius, and a *Caer Lwydgoed* mentioned in an ancient Welsh poem entitled 'Marwnad Cynddylan,' printed in the Myvyrian Archaeology. The correct Welsh form would, Mr. Bradley says, be *Caer Llwydcoed*, meaning, literally, 'city of the grey wood'; but Mr. Bradley fails altogether to identify this place with Lichfield, and it is clear that the poem, though referring to events of the 7 c., was not written until centuries afterwards, that

the scene is laid in Powisland, of which Welshpool was about the centre, and that all the places mentioned are in Wales. By the middle of the 7 c., when the hero of the poem lived, there were no Welsh in Staffordshire, and therefore Lichfield could not have been a Welsh city. By that time the Saxons had occupied the country up to Severn, and even beyond it. Etocetum, or Letocetum, as Mr. Bradley contends it should be called, is now Wall, and lies on Watling Street, 2 m. SE. of Lichfield. It was undoubtedly a Roman city or station, and it is incredible that a Welsh city could lie so near it, and be maintained there far into the seventh century. Lichfield stands on a morass which in ancient times must have been most uninviting, and certainly uncultivable. The cathedral stands on a hillock in the midst of this morass. Though the city has been cut up in all directions for building, sewerage, and waterworks purposes, no traces of British or Roman occupation have been discovered, and all history tells us that until St. Chad settled there in the seventh century it was a marsh. Nine years after the Conquest, a synod found that Lichfield was too mean and little for the residence of a bishop, and before D. the see was transferred to Chester. I do not suggest that Shaw or Stukeley, though most diligent antiquaries, are authorities on pl. names, but they both had local knowledge. I suggest that 'Lichfield' is entirely A. S.; no one will dispute that the terminal is, and the presumption is in favour of the prefix being A. S. also. Our O. E. dictionaries are very imperfect, and we can never expect one on the principles of the H. E. D.; yet we get some assistance from them. *Lacu*, of which *lace* (pr. *lach*) is a dat. form, means 'standing water,' and in some places a stream (*v.* Crawford Charters, Anec. Oxon. 54). We have also a verb *leccan*, to water, to wet, of which *lecce* (pr. *lech*) is a form. Now there must have been an adjectival form of the word to describe, e. g., a 'wet' field, and I suggest that *lece*

(pr. *lech*) or *lace* was the form. If not accepted A. S. it is certainly Provincial English. In a Staffordshire charter of 994, Wulfrun to the monks of (Wolver)hampton, *lechemere* is mentioned as on the bounds of Bilston, and *lece broc* as on the bounds of Hilton. I admit I cannot account for the medial *d* or *t* in *some* of the earlier forms, and I distrust those letters because they are absent in all the later forms. D. records three *Lecce*, one *Lecche*, five *Lece*, *Lecefelle* and *Licefelle* (Lichfield), *Lecelade*, *Leceworde*, *Lecford*, *Lech*, six *Leche*, three *Lecheburne*, and many commencing *Lec-* and *Lech-*; also two *Lach*, and about ten commencing *Lach-*. All these forms had a meaning. Halliwell's Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words gives as one of the meanings of *lache*, a muddy hole, a bog, and of *leche* a deep rut (both as Yorkshire words). In Cheshire, where there was formerly much wet land, many pl. names commence or end *lach*, e.g. *Lach* Dennis, Stub*lach*, The *Laches*, Shoch-*lach*, Shur*lach*, *Lache* Lane, *Lache* Hall; all of which are low-lying. There is also a Lechmere close to Presteign similarly situate. The Century Dictionary gives 'Latch, M.E. *lache*, *leche*, a pit hole, a miry place.' 'Leech' and 'Leach' are also forms (doubtless of *leche*) for wet land, *v.* 'Leech meadow' and 'Lache,' Glossary of Sheffield, E. D. S. There was in the 13 c., and probably still is, a *Lechemedowe* in Withington, 5 m. E. of Shrewsbury, and as Withington is bounded by the Tern the meadow perhaps lay on its course; and there is a *Lech* meadow on Severn side near Leighton, Salop. *Lacu* is given in Bosworth-Toller as 'a pool, pond, piece of water, lake'; but it certainly meant in some localities a stream and standing water, whether permanent or occasional, and I suggest a morass also. *Lace* (pr. *lach*) is one of the forms of *lacu*, and is frequently met with in A. S. charters; *v.* examples in Bosworth-Toller under *lacu*. My suggestion is that *lache* and *leche* mean, among other things, a morass or bog, and that Lichfield means 'the

boggy field.' Mr. Bradley's articles in the Academy (before quoted) are too long to set out here.

Linehill Green, h., 1 m. S. of Penkridge. 13 c. *Lynhulle, Lynull, Loynhull.* A. S. and M. E. *līn,* flax, M. E. *hull,* hill—the flax hill. Exs.: Linacre, Linley, Linfield, Lincroft. Flax was formerly a common crop, being required for home-made clothing.

Little Aston, *v.* Aston (Little).

Littlehay, h., 2 m. SE. of Shenstone. 13 c. *Luttelhay,* frequently. M. E. *lutel,* little, *hay,* a fence, enclosure, division (*v.* Hay)—the little enclosure (or division). The locality was until the beginning of the 18 c. part of a vast heath.

Little Onn, *v.* Onn (Little).

Littywood, 3 m. N. of Penkridge. D. *Lutiude*; 12 c. *Luttiwode*; 13 c. *Lyttiwode.* Probably A. S. *lȳtel,* M. E. *lutel, luttil,* little, A. S. *wudu,* M. E. *wode,* wood—little wood. D. never uses *wu,* always omitting one letter.

Lloyd House, Lloyd Farm, in Penn, 4 m. S. of Wolverhampton. 13 and 14 c. *Lude, Luyde, in the Lude, the men of the Lude, the field of the Lude, at the Lude, of the pit of the Lude.* The locality is on the main road from Wolverhampton to Stourbridge and Kidderminster, and upon a stream. *Lude* is an interesting word as it forms the prefix to many pl. names. D. records two *Lude,* one *Ludes, Ludebroc, Ludeburg, Ludecerce, Ludecote,* five *Ludeforde, Ludeham, Ludeleia, Ludesforde,* four *Ludewelle, Ludewic,* and other places commencing *Lud-, Lude-. Luda* was an A. S. p. n., and may be represented by some of those prefixes, but the possessive *s* is lacking in most of them. The root is perhaps A. S. *leōd, leōde,* M. E. *lude,* which has a variety of meanings, e. g. men or people of the country, a prince or nobleman, sometimes 'a country, or district,' apart from its inhabitants. The difficulty here is in the application of any one of these meanings to a pl. n. The word has perplexed even Professor

Skeat, *v.* William of Palerne, E. E. T. S., Glossary, *s. Lud*; and Mr. Richard Morris, *v.* Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight, E. E. T. S., Glossary, *s. Lude, Leude, Lede*, &c. Ludlow is *Lude* in D., and Eyton (Antiquities of Shropshire) considers the word to belong to some archaic language, and to mean a ford. In A. S. *lād* (lode) means a way, and some of the ferries on Severn bear the name, e. g. Hampton *Lode*, the *Load*, nr. Upper Arley. The difficulty here is in *lode* becoming *lude*; yet in the 12 and 13 c. Ludlow alternates between *Ludelawe* and *Lodelawe*. The only certainty here is that 'Lloyd' is properly 'Lude,' and a very ancient settlement.

Loggerheads (The), a farm and field name in the midland counties, is a provincial word for the knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), and for the bluebottle (*C. cyanus*); of course from the local growth of those plants, which affect wet land, and disappear with drainage and cultivation.

Long Birch, h., 2 m. S. of Brewood. 'Birch,' here, has no reference to the tree. It is A. S. *bryce* (*ce* = *ch*), M. E. *bruche*, a clearing or new enclosure, which by metathesis, or shifting of the *r* (*v.* Birchills), becomes *burche* and *birch*. Strangleford 'Birch,' and Harvington 'Birch,' are 2 m. W. of Brewood. The meaning of Long Birch is simply 'long new enclosure.' The country round Brewood was formerly forest land.

Longdon, 3 m. NW. of Lichfield. 1004 *Langdun*; 12 c. *Langedun*. A. S. *lang-dūn*, long hill.

Longford. A local name for the portion of Watling Street running between Churchbridge and the Four Crosses, a mile SE. of Cannock. 994 *Lang strœt*; 1004 *Laganford*. The locality is low-lying, and before drainage would be liable to flood. The name survives in 'Longhouse' and 'Longford Hall' on the road. The Chester road between Bletchley and Hinstock (part of the Roman way from Chester to Worcester and the S.) was also 'Longford' in 1232.

Longnor, h., 3 m. W. of Penkridge. D. *Longenalre*; 1223 *Langenalre*; 1327 *Longenolre*. This is A. S. *lang*, M. E. *long*, long, tall, and A. S. *alr*, *alor*, M. E. *alre*, *olre*, *orl*, alder (tree)—the tall alder. The medial *en* is the dat. form of *lang*, *long*. Longnor, in Salop, in the 13 c., was *Longenholre*, *Langenalre*, *Longnore*, and *Longenolre*. Longner-upon-Severn, also in Salop, had similar forms.

Longnor, 10 m. NE. of Leek. 13 c. *Longenorle*. *V.* Longnor nr. Penkridge.

Longridge, 1 m. NW. of Penkridge. 13 c. *Longrigge*, *Langerugge*; 14 c. *Longerugge*. A. S. *hrycg*, M. E. *rugge*, *rigge*, a ridge, back, in pl. names generally of a hill. The hamlet lies at the head of, and between, two long ridges of higher ground. Ancient thoroughfare roads are frequently called the Ridgeway or Rudgeway.

Longsdon, 2 m. SW. of Leek. 13 c. *Longesdon*. Here the possessive *s*, and its retention, are strong evidence of a p. n., and I should read this as 'Lang's hill.' *Lang* was an A. S. p. n. In M. E. *lang* becomes *long*.

Longton, Potteries. Not in D.; 13 c. *Langeton*; 14 c. *Longeton*. Long town.

Low (The), or **Low Hill,** Bushbury, an ancient estate 2 m. N. of Wolverhampton. 13 and 14 c. *Lowe*; 1545 *le Lowe Hyll*. A. S. *hlawe*, M. E. *lawe*, *lowe*, a burial-mound. Huntbach, the antiquary, wrote, in the 17 c., that there was then 'a very large' tumulus here. Much, if not the whole of it, has been since destroyed. The hill is lofty, and a place likely to be selected for the burial of some prehistoric magnate. In 911 a battle was fought between the Saxons and the Danes, called in the Chronicles the battle of Tettenhall, but which was really waged on Wednesfield Heath (now Heath Town). The dead were buried as usual under mounds, which in Huntbach's time still remained, and were known as North Low, South Low, the Little Low, the Great Low, Horselow, Tromelowe, and Ablow (many of these names

survive), besides others which had then disappeared. It is therefore difficult to say whether 'the Low' here was a prehistoric tumulus, or a battle-mound.

Loxley, h., 2½ m. SW. of Uttoxeter. D. *Locheslei*; 13 c. *Lokesle*, *Lockesley*, *Lockesleye*. Loxley, in S. Warwickshire, has similar early forms. I think the prefix is the A. S. p. n. *Loc*, or perhaps *Loxa*. I have not met with *Loxa* except in compounds, such as *Loxanleah*, *Loxanwudu*, which appear to be Lox's lea, Lox's wood (*Loxan* being the gen. form). *Lox* means a lynx, and Lynex is a family name; but the lynx did not inhabit England, and I am not aware that the A. S. *lox* meant a wild cat; their word for a cat was *catt*; what they called a wild cat does not appear. (It is not impossible that the lynx, or something very like it, existed in England, for *lox*, German *luchs*, is the exact Germanic form of the Indo-Germanic word represented by the Greek 'lynx,' and it is used in A. S. glossaries to explain the Greek word. It can never have struck them that it was, historically, the same word as 'lynx,' and its use to gloss that word is therefore most remarkable. W. H. S.)

Loynton, h., 4 m. SW. of Eccleshall. D. *Levintone*; 11 c. *Levintone*. The *v* must represent an A. S. *f*, the A. S. having no *v*. *Leofa* was a common A. S. p. n., the gen. form of which was *Leofan*, and *Leofantūn* would be Leofa's town. The passage to *Levintone* would be correct.

Lutley, h., 2 m. N. of Enville. 12 and 13 c. *Lutley*, *Lutteleye*. M. E. *lutel*, *lutle*—Little lea (*v*. Ley).

Lyme, river, N. Staffordshire, tributary of Trent, is A. S. *hlimme*, a stream, river, torrent. There is a Dorsetshire river Lyme, giving name to Lyme Regis. There is a river 'Lyne' in E. Northumberland, another near Peebles, in Scotland, and an East 'Lyn' in W. Somerset, giving name to Lynmouth. *Lyme* and *Lyne* are probably allied words; but *Lyne* is not A. S.

Lyncroft, 1 m. NW. of Lichfield. 1356 *the field of*

Lyncroft. A. S. *lin*, flax—the flax croft. The Anglo-Saxons had another word for flax, *fleax* (M. E. *flax*); hence the number of pl. names commencing *Lin-* and *Flax-*.

Lynn, h., in Shenstone, 4 m. SE. of Lichfield. 13 and 14 c. *la Lynd* frequently, *Lynd*, *Lynde*. A. S. *lind*, M. E. *linde*, *lynde*, the linden or lime-tree. In M. E. poetry the word *linde* was frequently applied to trees in general, and in pl. form *lindes*, to a grove.

Lysways, h. and hall, 4 m. NW. of Lichfield. 1167 *Lisuis*; 13 c. *Lesewys*, *Liswys*. Lysways lies in watery meadows. I think the root is A. S. *læswe*, M. E. *lesewes*, leasows. The word is still in common use for meadow-land.

Madeley, 4½ m. SW. of Newcastle. 975 *Madanlieg* (*g* = *y*); D. *Madelie*; 13 c. *Maddeley*, *Maddeleye-under-Lyme*, *Madelegh*, *Madeleye*. The terminal is clearly *ley*, lea land (*v.* Ley); and the *n* in the earliest form is the gen. of something like *Mad* or *Mada*; but I cannot identify it with any A. S. p. n. or word. Cf. Madeley in Salop (D. *Madelie*), which is situate on a stream called the *Made*; but the stream may have borrowed its name from the town. Cf. also Madeley Ulfac, Madehurst in W. Sussex, Madingley in Cambridgeshire (D. *Madingelie*), and Madley in Herefordshire.

Madeley Ulfac, or **Madeley Holme,** in Checkley parish, 3 m. NW. of Uttoxeter. D. *Madelie*. *V.* Madeley. Though a D. manor this is now, I think, only a farm. Ulfac was the Saxon possessor at the Conquest, and is so recorded in D.

Maer, 6½ m. SW. of Newcastle. D. *Mere*; 13 c. *Mere*, frequently. A. S. *mere*, M. E. *mēre*, *mære*, a lake, mere. *Maer* is doubtless a M. E. form from *mære*. There is a large natural lake here.

Manifold, river, tributary of Dove. I have no early forms; but it appears to be plain A. S. *manig-feald*, M. E. *manifeald*, manifold, of many parts, complex. In its course,

through a limestone country nr. Ilam, the stream disappears, and rises again at a considerable distance. *V.* Dove.

Marchington, 3½ m. SE. of Uttoxeter. 951 *Mærcham*, later *Marchanton-sub-Nedwode*; 1004 *Merchamtūne*; D. *Marchamtone*; 13 c. *Marchynton-upon-Nedwode.* This is A. S. *mearce, mærce* (*ce* = *ch*), M. E. *marche*, a march, boundary, and *hām*, home, village (*v.* Ham)—the home or village on the march. Marchington lies on the border of Staffordshire and Derbyshire. 'Riding the marches,' 'beating the bounds,' are equivalent terms for manorial perambulations. 'The Marches' of Wales, and of Scotland, mean 'border country.' *Ton* appears to have been added to the name before D., as if the meaning of Mærcham had been even then forgotten.

Marston, h., in Church Eaton, 6 m. W. of Penkridge. D. *Mersetone*; 1327 *Mershton.* A. S. *merse*, M. E. *mersh, mersch*, a marsh—the marsh town (*v.* Ton). Wet low country liable to flood, or on which water frequently lay, although partly cultivated, would be termed 'marsh.' The land lying W. of Penkridge for eight or nine miles is a flat plain, and, though fenny ground, appears for some reason, perhaps because it was on the borders of Cannock Forest, but not forest ground, to have been well settled before the Conquest.

Marston, 2½ m. N. of Stafford. D. *Mersetone, Mertone*; 1327 *Castrum* (Castlechurch) *cum-Marisco* (Marsh). Marsh town. *V.* Marston in Church Eaton.

Mavesyn Ridware, *v.* Ridware (Mavesyn).

Mayfield, 2 m. SW. of Ashbourne. D. *Madevelde*; 13 c. *Mathelefell, Matherfield*; 14 c. *Mathefeld, Mathfield* or *Mayfield.* D. always uses *d* for a medial *th*, and we must read that form *Methfelde.* The terminal is doubtless 'field' (q. v.), and I think the prefix is A. S. *mæthel*, meeting, council—the council (or meeting) field. *Mæthel* was a compound in p. names such as Mæthelgar, Mæthelbeorht, Mæthelhelm, &c.; but the forms do not point to such a compound, and I think the suggested meaning the right one. *Metheltūn*

is mentioned in an A. S. charter (Cod. Dip. 1339), and clearly means 'council (or meeting) town.'

Meaford, 1½ m. NW. of Stone. D. *Mepford, Melford*; 1173 *Medford*; 1251 *Medford*, later *Mefford*. Meaford lies on the Trent, where it is crossed by the great road from London to the NW. The terminal *ford* doubtless applies to the passage of the river. Despite the D. forms I think the prefix may be accepted as *Med*, which is difficult to interpret. It may represent A. S. *mæd*, a meadow, but 'meadow ford' is not a satisfactory interpretation. Cf. Medbourn, Medstead. Professor Skeat (Notes and Queries, 9th S. v. 411) sees no objection to the *Med* in Medstead being construed 'meadow.' There is a small stream running into Trent at Meaford and *Med* may represent its ancient name.

Mease, river, rises near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire, and runs into Tame nr. Alrewas. Probably gives its name to Measham in Derbyshire, D. *Messeham*. Early forms of small river names are difficult to obtain. **Mees,** river, rises on W. border of Staffordshire, and flows NW. and SW. into Tern at Bolas Magna. No forms. **Meese,** river, joins the Sow 4 m. NW. of Stafford. No forms. **Meese (Cold), Mill Meese,** h., 4 m. W. of Stone, on the last-mentioned river. D. *Mess*; 14 c. *Coldemees, Mulnemes, Mulnemees*. *Cold* means cold; *mulne* is M. E. for mill. I can make nothing of the forms in A. S., except that *Mæse* was the A. S. name for the river *Maas*, in Holland (French, *Meuse*, L. *Mosa*). There is a Meese, or *Mise*, river in Bucks, apparently giving its name to Great and Little Missenden, which are situate upon it. In D. these places are *Missedene*, the valley of the Misse. I think the root must lie in some lost language. Cf. Measden, 5 m. NE. of Buntingford, in Herts, on a now nameless stream, tributary of the Stort.

Meertown, h., 1 m. NW. of Newport. D. *Mera*. A. S. *mere*, a lake. It is near a large lake called Aquilate Meer, which is within the manor of Meer.

Merridale, an ancient estate 1½ m. SW. of Wolverhampton. The mediaeval forms are *Muridene*. Meriden, in Warwickshire, was *Myridene*. (Probably A. S. *myrige*, pleasant, sweet, delightful, merry, and *dene*, valley. This would account for the *i* in *Muridene*. W. H. S.) An old meaning of 'merry' was as stated. 'Merry' England, the 'merry month of May,' mean 'sweet, pleasant,' not jocund or mirthful.

Milwich, 5 m. SE. of Stone. D. *Melewiche*; 12 c. *Mulewich*. The prefix is A. S. *myln*, M. E. *melle*, *myln*, *mulne*, a mill. The terminal is probably A. S. *wic*, M. E. *wich*, a village, giving us 'the Mill village.' It may be *wich*, a salt spring (*v.* Wich), as it is 3½ m. only from Salt, where salt springs exist, and the country for miles around is on salt strata, at varying depths.

Mitchel, ancient estate in Upper Penn, 2½ m. SW. of Wolverhampton. 1332 *Mucheale*; 1409 *Muchale*. M. E. *muche*, *halle*, great hall. In M. E. 'much,' in its forms of *muche*, *muchel*, *michel*, *mochel*, *mukil*, *mikil*, &c., was used as an adjective, in the sense of 'great, large.' As to the terminal *v.* Hale.

Mitton, h., 2½ m. W. of Penkridge. D. *Mutone*; 13 c. *Mutton*. The root here is A. S. (*ge*)*mythan*, a derivative of *muthan*, which Bosworth-Toller translates 'the mouth of a river'; but (inland certainly) it means the junction of two streams, and is occasionally applied in charters to a junction of roads (*v.* Crawford Charters, by Napier and Stevenson, 114). Sweet's Student's A. S. Dict. more correctly gives (*ge*)*mythe* as 'waters'-meet, junction (of streams or roads) [*muth*].' (The *ge* is a preposition, often of little significance, omitted in late A. S.) D. records six *Mitune* and two *Mutone*. In M. E. the forms generally become *Mutton*, later *Mitton*, or *Mytton*. A few places retain the older form *Mythe* alone, or as a prefix. This Mitton, like all other Mittons known to me, is situate near the junction of two streams.

Mixon, h., 5 m. SE. of Leek. 1219 *Mixne*. This is

a rare name, probably unique, and an example of simplicity. It is plain A. S. and M. E. *mixen, mixne*, a mixen, dung-heap.

Mockbeggar Hall, in Essington, 4 m. NW. of Walsall. This building, now occupied as several tenements by miners, was erected by a Vernon of Hilton towards the end of the 18 c. as a specimen of Italian 'barracks,' he having travelled in Italy. At that time Essington 'Wood' was unenclosed, waste, and timberless, and the building, being white and lofty, was conspicuous from the great London and NW. road. Wayfarers mistook it for a gentleman's house, and went across the heath (a long mile) to beg; it being occupied by poor people they got nothing, and so the building acquired its name. There are many 'Mockbeggar Halls,' all of course having their story.

Moddershall, h., 2½ m. NE. of Stone. D. *Modredeshale.* D. is here quite accurate. *Modred* was an A. S. p. n., and 'Modred's hall' (*v.* Hale) is the correct interpretation.

Monmore, 1 m. SE. of Wolverhampton. 1327 *Monnemere*; 1355 *Monmerefeld*; 16 c. *Monmore.* **Monmore Lane,** ½ m. NE. of Willenhall. 14 c. *Monnemedewe*; 1550 *Monmerefeld.* **Monway Fields,** ⅓ m. E. of Wednesbury. No early forms. These are Celtic survivals. W. *mawn*, I. *moin* (pr. *mone*), M. *moain*, G. *moine*, a bog. Monmore is a common name in Ireland, meaning great bog; Moneen, little bog. Here Monway means the bog way; Monmore (rightly *mere*), the bog pool; *Monnemedewe*, boggy meadow. All the localities referred to are low, and likely to have been swampy when the country was open and undrained.

Morfe, h., in Enville, 8 m. SE. of Bridgnorth. D. *Morve.* This is the only form of the name worth recording, that I have met with; but the 'Forest of Morfe,' to which this little place gave its name, appears in mediaeval records as *Morf* and *Morfe.* It is not an A. S. word, and I have no doubt is W. *morfa*, a marsh. Eyton (Antiquities of Shropshire, iii.

212), under 'Morfe Forest,' does not deal with the etymology of the name, but his statements support the suggestion.

Morton, and **Moreton,** are very common names. D. records over fifty manors as *Mortone*, *Mortun*, and *Mortune*. The A. S. form is *Mōrtūn*, Moor town.

Moseley, h., in Bushbury, 3 m. N. of Wolverhampton. D. *Moleslei*; 13 c. *Mollesleg*, *Molesleye*, *Mollesleye*, *Molleston*. Moseley is a common name, sometimes derived from A. S. *mōse*, a moss, marsh; but here we have *l* and a possessive *s* in all the forms. *Moll*, *Molle*, was a common A. S. p. n., and this is Moll's pasture (*v.* Ley).

Moseley Hole, h., 1½ m. N. of Bilston. 12 and 13 c. *Mollesleye*, *Mollesley*. *V.* Moseley in Bushbury. *Hole*, in pl. names, means a hollow, a depression.

Moxley, h., 1½ m. W. of Wednesbury. 14 c. *Mockeslowe*, *Moxlowe*, *Mokkeslowe*, *Moxelowe*. The forms point to the A. S. p. n. *Mocc* (there was no *Mox*)—Mocc's low (burial-mound) (*v.* Low).

Mucklestone, 4 m. NE. of Market Drayton. D. *Moclestone*; 1253 *Muklestone*. *Mucel* (*c* hard) was a common A. S. p. n., and I read this as Mucel's town (*v.* Ton). A. S. *micel*, *mycel*, M. E. *muchel*, *mikel*, *mukel*, means large, great, and if this were a M. E. name we might read it 'great stone'; but here (being in D.) we have an A. S. form to construe.

Muckley Corner, h., 3 m. SW. of Lichfield. 16 and 17 c. *Mucklow*. We do not know, having only late forms, whether we are dealing with an A. S. or M. E. name. It may be read 'Mucel's low,' or 'great low.' As there is no evidence of A. S. origin the probability is that it is 'great low.' There are no traces, or record, of a burial-mound here, but so many lows have been destroyed for agricultural purposes, repairing roads, &c., that the absence of one leads to no inference. The h. stands on Watling Street, where it is crossed by the main road from Walsall to Lichfield, hence 'Corner.'

Nechells, h., 3 m. E. of Wolverhampton. 13 c. *Echeles,* frequently; 14 c. *Echels, Escheles;* 15 c. *Necheles;* 16 c. *Nechels, Echells otherwise Nechells, Nechells.* This was, originally, an ancient homestead, which gave its name to a family of 'Etchell,' still resident in the locality. There is a Nechells nr. Birmingham, a Nechells or Etchells in Erdington, Etchells nr. Altrincham, Etchells nr. Stockport. In the 14 c. there was an Echeles in Wombourne, and another in Drayton Bassett. There is no trace of the word in A. S. All the forms are M. E., and I think the word is O. F. *echelles,* ladders, steps, stairs, meaning, in substance, a two-story house, where the access to the upper floor was by an internal ladder or outer steps. In the 13 c. dwelling-houses of two stories were so rare as to excite local interest, and as at that time records were written in O. F., the introduction of a French word to describe an innovation is reasonable, and in practice common. Palsgrave (L'Eclaircissement de la Langue Française, an. 1530) renders 'Ladder' *eschiel, eschelle;* Cotgrave (an. 1611) translates 'Eschellette' a little ladder; and the Ladies' Dictionary, 1694, renders 'Eschelles' a stomacher laced or ribboned in the form of the steps of a ladder. The intrusion of an initial *n* before a vowel is frequent in M. E. (Skeat's Principles of Etymology, 1st S. 346–7, and A Student's Pastime, 27). It arises from an old form of modern *at* being *atten;* thus *atten Echeles* becomes *atte Necheles.* In Yorkshire, where the Norsemen settled in large numbers, there are several places named Lofthouse and Loftus. This is O. N. *lofthūs,* a house with an upper story, and the name shows that such buildings were rare. Here it is interesting to note that some of these Yorkshire Lofthouses are recorded in D., which shows that two-storied houses were known in Northumbria before the Conquest, whilst in Mercia there was no name to describe them until the 13 c. Our word 'loft' is not A. S., but M. E. derived from O. N. In 13 and 14 c. records 'de Solario,'

'ad Solerium,' 'in Solario,' meaning 'of the upper chamber' (from O. F. *soler*), are frequently found as descriptive additions to a christian name. For *echeles v.* Harecastle, and for intrusive *n*, *v.* Nurton.

Needwood, Needwood Forest. I have not met with the name before the Conquest, and it is not in D. All the mediaeval forms, from the 12 c., are *Nedwode*. Nothing probable can be made of the prefix in A. S. I think it must be Celtic. In W. *nedd*, *nydd*, means 'what turns, a dingle, a resting-place,' and *nyth*, I. *nead*, Cornish *neid*, G. *nead*, L. *nidus*, A. S. *nest*, means 'a (bird's) nest.' In Ireland *nead*, in the forms of *nad*, *ned*, *nid*, is of frequent occurrence in pl. names; e. g. Nedeen, little nest, Nadanuller, the eagle's nest, Nadneagh, the raven's nest, Derrynaned, the oakwood of the nests (Joyce's Irish Place Names, 1st S. 489). Forests often take their name from a small locality, and I think it doubtful if they had any established name before the Conquest. The terminal *wode* is the M. E. form of wood. I cannot say that either of the meanings suggested is satisfactory. They are only 'guesses,' and earlier forms are desirable.

Newbolds (The), an ancient farm in Wednesfield, 2 m. NW. of Wolverhampton. 14 c. *le Newbold, Newboldesbruche, le Neubolt, Newboldes alias Bayliestyles*. A. S. *niwe bold*, new house. Newbold is a common name; in the N. it takes the form of New*bald*. New*biggin*, in the N. and Scotland, has a similar meaning.

Newborough, in Needwood, 7 m. S. of Uttoxeter. D. *Edgareslege*; afterwards *Agardsley*; 13 c. *Neuboreg*; 14 c. *Newburgh, Novo Burgo*. The old name means Eadgar's lea (*v.* Ley), and is preserved in 'Agardsley' Park, and the Staffordshire family name Agard. The name was changed from Agardsley to Newborough in the 13 c., under what circumstances is unknown. *Borough* is only a form of *burh* (*v.* Bury).

Newbridge, in Tettenhall, 2 m. W. of Wolverhampton. 1327 *Novum pontem*; 1368 *Newebrugge*. *Newebrugge* is the M. E. form of 'new bridge.' The bridge carries the Holyhead road over the Smestow.

Newcastle-under-Lyme. Not in D. 1166 *Novum Oppidum*; later in 12 c. *Novo Castro, Novum Castrum, Novo Castro super Limam*. A castle was erected here in the early part of the 12 c., and to distinguish it from the ancient 'castle,' or ruins, of Chesterton, 2 m. N., the name of 'New Castle' was given to it. For *Lyme v.* Lyme.

Newton is a common name, especially for hamlets. The A. S. form is *nēowe, nīowe, nīwe*, M. E. *newe, neow, niewe*, new, and *tūn*, town (*v.* Ton)—new town. D. records forty-four *Neuton, Neutone, Neuiun*, and *Neutune* manors. In the dat. case *niwe* becomes *niwan*, hence Newington, Newenham, Newnton, Newnham.

Norbury, 4 m. NE. of Newport. D. *Northberie*; 13 c. *Northbyri*. A. S. *north*, north, *burh*, dat. *byrig*—north burgh (*v.* Bury).

Normacott, 4 m. E. of Stoke-on-Trent. D. *Normanescote*; 1242 *Normancote*. *Northman*, sometimes contracted to *Norman*, was an A. S. p. n., and this is probably Northman's cot; but, as *Northman* also meant a man from the North, it is possible it may mean 'the North man's cot.'

Northicote, h. in Bushbury, 3 m. N. of Wolverhampton. 1255 *Northincote*; 1271 *Northicote*; 1327 *Nordicote*. This is 'Northern cot'; the *i* is the remains of the terminal in A. S. *northan*. The h. lies due N. of Bushbury.

Norton Canes, or **Norton under Cannock,** 6 m. N. of Walsall. D. *Nortone*; 12 c. *Norton Galfrid*; 13 c. *Norton juxta Wirley*; 16 c. *Norton otherwise Cank Norton*; *Norton Caynes otherwise Norton on Cannock, Norton Caynes*. Norton means North town, possibly because the vill lies on the N. side of Watling Street, which passes through the manor. I am unable to discover how it acquired the name 'Canes.'

There is in Norton a brook called 'Gain's' Brook, forming the southern boundary of the manor, and a road called 'Gain's' Lane; 'Gain's' and 'Canes' probably represent the name of some former lord or landowner. (The family name 'Canes' is derived from Cahaianes or Cahagnes, in Normandy. W. H. S.)

Norton (Cold), h., 2 m. SW. of Stone. 13 c. *Coldmorton.* Here the *m* has become *n*; the plain meaning of the form is 'Cold moor town.'

Norton in the Moors, 6 m. SW. of Leek. D. *Nortone.* A. S. *North-tūn,* north town (*v.* Ton).

Nurton, h., in Pattingham, 5½ m. W. of Wolverhampton. 13 c. *Noverton.* 'Noverton' has puzzled me exceedingly. After concluding that it was untranslatable, it suddenly occurred to me that the initial *n* was excrescent, and that the original form was *Overton,* upper town (A. S. *Ofertūne*), and the difficulty vanished. An excrescent initial *n* arises generally from the use of a word in the dative form, commencing with a vowel, e. g. *atten oke* (at the oak) becomes *atte noke,* hence our family name Noake; *atten ash* becomes Nash; *an ewt* becomes a newt; *mine uncle* my nuncle, &c. *V.* Nechells. The passage from Overton to Noverton being thus accounted for, how do we get Nurton? Very easily. In M. E. *u* was commonly written for *v* between vowels, and *v* for an initial *u*; thus *Nouerton* would become Nurton.

Oaken, h., 4½ m. NW. of Wolverhampton. D. *Ache*; 13 c. *Oce, Oke, Ake, Oken.* A. S. *āc,* M. E. *ake, ac, oke, ok,* oak (tree). The Norman scribes of D. were evidently perplexed by the A. S. *āc,* or its pronunciation, for they spell it *ache, ac, ach, oce,* and *oche.* The word forms the prefix to a large number of names. The *n* is excrescent, and the result of the accent on *k*; *n* is also sometimes excrescent after *r* (*v.* Nechells and Nurton for an intrusive *n*). Having

regard to the latitude in spelling which our forefathers indulged in, one would expect to find a generous liberality on the subject; but lawyers, and even juries, appear sometimes to have taken very narrow views. At Stafford Assizes in 1293 the Abbot of Croxden complained that the Dean of Wolverhampton had disseised him of four acres of wood in *Ake*. The dean objected that there was no vill in Staffordshire called *Ake*, and he appealed to a jury. The jury found that the vill was called *Oke*, and not *Ake*, and the suit was therefore dismissed. (Oaken probably takes its form from *ācum* (dat. plural of *āc*), oaks. W. H. S.)

Oakley, an ancient estate and manor, now a farm, 7 m. NE. of Lichfield. 1004 *Acclea*; D. *Aclei*; 13 c. *Acleia*, *Okeley*; 14 c. *Ocleye*, *Okleye*. A. S. *āc*, oak, and *leah*, *lea*, lea, pasture—the oak lea. It is curious that with the terminals *-ley*, *-field*, *-ford*, and *-ham*, *āc* has become *oak*, as in Oakley, Oakfield, Oakford, Oakham; but with *-ton* it remains *ac*, as in our numerous Actons (q. v.).

Oakley, h., and hall, in Mucklestone, 2½ m. NE. of Market Drayton. D. *Aclei*. The oak lea. *V.* Oakley nr. Lichfield. (When the meaning is clear I think it unnecessary to multiply forms.)

Ocker Hill, in Tipton. **Hockley Hill,** in Handsworth. Ocker Hill, Hockerill, and Hockley, are somewhat common names, always in relation to a hill or hill-side. I can make nothing of the names in A. S. The root may be W. *ochr*, *ochren*, a side, a shelving locality. Probably Oakengates, in Salop, has the same etymon. It lies on a steep hill-side, on Watling Street. A. S. *geat*, M. E. *gate*, *yate*, gate, a way. I have not met with any early forms of these names; without them it is only 'a guess.'

Offley (Bishops), 3½ m. W. of Eccleshall. D. *Offeleia*. *Offa* was a common A. S. p. n. I read this as Offa's lea (*v.* Ley). At the time of D. the bishops of Lichfield were its tenants *in capite*.

Offley (High), 6 m. NE. of Newport. D. *Offelie.* A. S. p. n. *Offa*—Offa's lea (*v.* Ley).

Offlow, Staffordshire hundred. D. *Offelau*; 13 c. *Ofelawe.* A. S. p. n. *Offa*, Offa's low (burial-mound) (*v.* Low). Offlow is an arable field in Swinfen, 3 m. S. of Lichfield. In the field, towards the centre, are the remains of a tumulus which, from repeated ploughings, is sadly defaced, but still visible. It has been much reduced within the last fifty years. The field adjoins the *old* road from Birmingham to Lichfield, and also an ancient diversion of Watling Street between Wall (Etocetum) and Fazeley. Offa was the name of a Mercian king, 757–87; but the name was borne also by common men.

Ogley Hay, now better known as Brownhills, 5 m. N. of Walsall, was formerly one of the hays, or divisions, of the Forest of Cannock. It was given by Wulfrun in 996 to the monks of (Wolver)hampton under the name of *Ocgingtun.* D. records it as *Hocintune*, the property of the church at Wolverhampton, and 'waste.' This D. manor has never been identified, and Eyton (D. Studies of the Staffordshire Survey) records it as 'obsolete.' The description of the boundaries in the charter of Wulfrun identifies it with Ogley Hay, and in the 12 c. the Dean and Chapter of 'Wolverne-hampton' conveyed the manor to William Ruffus (the red) of Waleshale (Walsall) under the description of 'a certain wood which is called *Hogeley'* (giving the bounds). In 1300, in a perambulation of the Forest, it is mentioned as 'the bounds of *Oggeleye* and *Prestwode'* (Priest's wood), the latter name frequently attaching itself to ecclesiastical property in a wild state. In 1431 it is also *Oggeley.* The hay (and manor) contained about 2,700 acres, and was extra-parochial until the 18 c., when it was added to Shenstone parish. It was enclosed in 1834, up to which time it was part of Cannock Chase, and inhabited only by deer. The *Ocgingtun* in Wulfrun's charter points to the p. n. *Ocga*, the gen. form

of which would be *Ocgantūn*, Ocga's town. The D. form points to *Hocca*, but I think *Hocca* and *Occa* were only forms of *Ocga*. Variety in the spelling of pl. names has been great within the last two centuries, and was not less a thousand years ago. The terminal *leye* of the later forms is of course a complete change from the earlier *tūn*.

Okeover, 2 m. NW. of Ashbourne. 1004 *Acofre*; D. *Acovere*; 13 c. *Acovere, Acoure* (*u* = *v*); 14 c. *Ockover*. A. S. *āc*, oak, *ōfer, ōfre*, a bank, margin, border—the oak bank (or border). A. S. *ofer* (*o* unaccented) means, in pl. names, 'above, upper,' as in *Ofertūn* (Overton), upper town. *Ofer* is only found, in pl. names, as a prefix, and *ōfer* as a suffix.

Old Falling, *v.* Falling (Old).

Onecote, 5 m. E. of Leek. 1199 and 1204 *Anecote*; 1285 *Onecote*. In A. S. the form would be *āncote*; in M. E. *ān* becomes *one, on, oon*, one cot (cottage). Cf. Onehouse, in Suffolk, which in A. S. was *Anhūs*.

Onn (High), 6 m. SE. of Newport. D. *Otne*; 12 and 13 c. *Onne*, regularly. We may dismiss D. as being a blunder; possibly the *t* is a mistake for *n*. The Normans were sometimes perplexed by A. S. forms, but W. tried them sorely. I think this is W. *onn* (plural), ash-trees—high ashes, high being a M. E. addition. Exs.: Onny, river in Salop; another Onny river in Herefordshire; Onibury in Salop; Onneley in Staffordshire; Onllwyn (the ash grove), 10 m. NE. of Neath; Onneley nr. Woore in Salop.

Onn (Little), 7 m. SE. of Newport. D. *Anne*. Little Onn and High Onn are only a mile apart, and I have difficulty in assigning the mediaeval forms, but all are *Onne*, and none *Anne*; so I think D. again at fault, and that Little Onn means little ashes. *V.* Onn (High).

Onneley, h., 1½ m. NW. of Woore. D. (Salop) *Anelege*. I think this means the lea of the ash trees. *V.* Onn (High).

Oreton, h., 4½ m. SW. of Wolverhampton. D. *Overtune*;

13 c. *Overton* and *Orton*, frequently. A. S. *Ofer-tūn*, upper town. (Or *ōfer*, bank, border. W. H. S.) I think not; *ōfer* is always a suffix; *ofer* always a prefix.

Orgreave, h., in Alrewas, 6 m. N. of Lichfield. 1195 *Ordgrave*; 1262 *Orgrave*; 13 c. *Ordgrave*, *Ordegrave*. *Ord* was an A. S. p. n., and also the prefix to many compound names, such as *Ordgar*, *Ordbeorht*, *Ordfrith*, &c. The A. S. form of Orgreave would be *Ordesgrāf*, Ord's grove (or wood). It lay in Alrewas Hay in Cannock Forest.

Orslow, h., 5 m. SE. of Newport. 1203 and 1208 *Horselawe*; 14 c. *Orselowe*, *Horselowe*. *Horsa* was an A. S. p. n., and in A. S. *hors* is a horse, so that it is difficult to say whether we should read this as 'Horsa's low' (burial-mound) (*v.* Low), or 'the horse low.' The former is the more likely. It might, however, be a mound raised over some favourite horse, or over horses killed in battle. The dropping of an initial *H* is not uncommon.

Oscot, h., in Perry Barr, 4 m. N. of Birmingham. 13 c. *Oscote*, *Oscott*. The terminal is clearly A. S. *cot*, a cot, cottage. *Os*, I think, represents the p. n. *Osa*, or one of the many names commencing *Os-*, such as *Oswald*, *Osbeorn*, *Osmod*, *Oswulf*, &c. Bescot (q. v.) is all that remains of *Beorchtmundescot*.

Otherton, h., 1 m. SE. of Penkridge. D. *Orretone*; 12 c. *Odertone*; 13 c. *Otherton*, frequently. There is no other *Orretone* (or *Oretone*) in D. The forms are conflicting. It may be that the A. S. form was *Ofer-tūn*, which ought to yield a M. E. *Over-ton*, upper town; but the forms are inconsistent with that view. *V.* Oreton. There is an Otherton, h., in Cotheridge, 3 m. W. of Worcester.

Oulton, h., 1 m. N. of Stone. 13 c. *Oldeton*, *Oldington*, *Oldeton*. M. E. *Oldeton*, old town. The A. S. form, if the place was of A. S. origin, would be *Ealdantūn* (dat.). (Perhaps from the p. n. *Ēālda*, Ealda's town; the *ing* and *e* show that it was *Ealdantūn*. W. H. S.)

Oxley, h., 1½ m. N. of Wolverhampton. D. *Oxelie*; 13 c. *Oxeleg, Oxleg, Oxle, Oxeley.* A. S. *oxa*, M. E. *oxe*, and A. S. *leah, leage, lea*, a lea (pasture)—the ox lea. In 14 c. local deeds a place identical with, or close to, Oxley is frequently mentioned as *Oxneford* and *Oxeneforde.* The prefix is M. E. *oxen, oxne*, oxen—the ford of the oxen. The city of Oxford has similar early forms and the same meaning.

Packington, h., 3 m. NW. of Tamworth. D. *Pagintone*; 12 c. *Pakintone.* As no A. S. p. n. commenced *Pac-*, we may assume that the D. *Pag-* is correct, and represents an A. S. *Pæcga, Pæga, Paga.* Paga's town (*v.* Ton). These forms in the gen. or dat. cases become *Pægan, Pægan, Pagan*, so accounting for the D. *n* and the modern *ing.* There are several Packingtons in England.

Palfrey Green, h., 1 m. SE. of Walsall. 16 c. *Palfraye Green*; 17 c. *Palfrey Green.* The green, a fragment of which I remember, has disappeared, and the locality, being populous and an ecclesiastical district, is now called 'Palfrey.' The word is M. E. (from O. F.), and means a riding horse, generally a lady's, but not always, as we read of 'the king's palfrey.' A palfrey is often mentioned in mediaeval deeds as a fine or payment to the king, or a superior lord, for a grant or restoration of land, or confirmation of title; and sometimes as an annual or periodical payment. A palfrey was also a fee payable, by custom, to the king's marshals, chamberlains, and other officers, when tenants *in capite* (i. e. holding direct from the king) did homage, and on other state ceremonies (*v.* Statute 13 Ed. I, cap. 41). The 'palfrey' was generally commuted into money, which was called 'Palfrey silver.' Sixty years ago I collected 'Palfrey silver,' 'Frith silver,' and other chief rents, which have since been compounded for, and used to wonder what old-world things they were. They were chargeable on land, but I never knew what lands. It is probable that

the name 'Palfrey Green' has its origin in some such payment.

Patshull, 9 m. NW. of Wolverhampton. D. *Pecleshella*; 13 c. *Petleshull, Patleshull* very often. I think the later forms represent the A. S. p. n. *Pyttel*, and, with M. E. *hull*, give us Pyttel's hill. (This will not account for *Pat-*. I think an unrecorded p. n. *Pæcgel* is involved, and that D. is correct. The change of *c* to *t* before *l* is common; *Pæcga* does occur as a p. n., and *Pæcgel* has merely another suffix. There is a *Peggles-worth* in Gloucestershire. W. H. S.) I think Mr. Stevenson is probably right, and that we should read this Pæcgel's hill.

Pattingham, 6 m. W. of Wolverhampton. D. *Patingham*; 12 c. *Pattingcham*; 15 c. *Patincham*. I believe this name is pronounced 'Pattinjam.' I cannot construe it. (From the p. n. *Peatta*; cf. *Peattingtun*, Cart. Sax. 77, 230, said now to be Patton, Salop. W. H. S.) But how do we get the soft *g*? That puzzled me.

Peak is a common local pl. n. in N. Staffordshire, rarely found in the S. of the county. The word is not admitted into A. S. dictionaries, though the A. S. Chronicle terms the mountainous parts of Derbyshire *Peac-lond*. It is probably Celtic, as it exists in I. *peac*. In M. E. it is *pec* and *peke*. It meant the summit of a hill, whether sharp or round topped, and in comparatively level localities was frequently applied to small elevations. The meaning is now confined to something with a sharp point.

Pelsall, 3 m. N. of Walsall. 994 *Peolshale*; D. *Peleshale*; 12 and 13 c. *Peleshale*; 14 c. *Peoleshale*. I cannot identify 'Peol' as an A. S. p. n., but here it is certainly used in that sense, and we may translate this Peol's hall. *V.* Hale.

Pendeford, h., 3½ m. N. of Wolverhampton. D. *Pendeford*; 13 c. *Pendeford*; 14 c. *Penneford, Pendeford*. I cannot construe the name, except of course the terminal. (This is Penda's ford, from an A. S. *Pendanford*. W. H. S.) Penda was a celebrated king of Mercia, 626–55. The name is not 'recorded'

to have been borne by any other A. S., but *Pendan āc*, Penda's oak, is mentioned in a Worcestershire charter of 849.

Penk, river, rises in Bushbury and Codsall, the two brooks uniting nr. Pendeford; flows through Penkridge into Sow. 13 c. *the river called Pencriz*, *the river of Pencriz*; 14 c. *river Penk*; 16 c. *water of Penck.* I think, from the early forms, that the Penk takes its name from Penkridge. Penk has no meaning in A. S., nor, I think, in any other language. *V.* Penkridge.

Penkhull, 1½ m. SW. of Newcastle. D. *Pinchetel* (*ch* = *c* hard); 12 c. *Pencul.* This place can have no connexion with the river Penk, being twenty miles from it. Notwithstanding the D. form I think it probable the terminal is rightly M. E. *hull*, a hill, the 12 c. and modern forms favouring that view. The prefix may represent the A. S. p. n. *Pinca*; but the forms are few and conflicting, and any conclusion upon them would be only 'guess.'

Penkridge, 5 m. S. of Stafford. 958 Charter of Eadgar, King of the Mercians, tested at 'the famous place which is called *Pencric*' (Cart. Sax. 1041); circa 1000 *Pencric*; D. *Pancriz*; 12 c. *Pencrich*, *Pancriz*; 14 c. *Penkrich.* The vill is on the river Penk, which I think takes its name from Penkridge (*v.* Penk). I accept the form *Pencric*, and divide it into *Pen-cric.* It is then evident that the name is not A. S. but Celtic. In W. *pen* means 'the head, extremity, or upper part' (of anything). In G. *crīoch*, *crīche*, I. *crioc*, *crioch*, means a boundary, end, limit, frontier. I am unable to verify *cric* as a W. word, but it probably existed in O. W., as there are places named 'Crick,' 4 m. SW. of Chepstow, 'Crickadarn,' 8½ m. NE. of Brecon, 'Criccieth' in Carnarvonshire, 'Cricketh,' 4 m. S. of Oswestry, and Cricklas, 1½ m. W. of Carmarthen. The same observation applies to Cornish, as 'Crickapit' and 'Crickley' are pl. names in Cornwall. Though not included in any A. S. dictionary, the word *crich* is used in a charter of 705 (Cart. Sax. 112) in describing the bounds of the

manor of Doulting in Somersetshire: 'then to *Crich*-hulle.' Joyce's Irish Place Names, a work of great learning and authority, says (2nd S. 206): '*Crioch* means an end, confine, or boundary. . . . When it is found in names we may conclude that it marks the ancient boundaries of farms, townlands, or territories.' We do not know what frontier Penkridge stood upon in prehistoric times, but we do know that the Penk was an ancient boundary of Cannock Forest to the W. and N., and that it flows at the foot of a hill country bordering on an immense plain of which the Wrekin forms a prominent centre, and therefore likely to be inhabited by separate tribes. *Crioch* and *Criche* appear to have formed an element in English pl. names. Crick in Northamptonshire (D. *Crec*) abuts on the boundary of the counties of Warwick and Northampton; Crackley Bank, 3 m. N. of Shiffnal, is on the border line of Staffordshire and Salop; Crickley Coppice, 5 m. SW. of Tamworth, is on the bounds of Staffordshire and Warwickshire; Crich, in Derbyshire (D. *Crice*) lies on the bounds of four hundreds; Pentrich, alias Pentridge, in Derbyshire (D. *Pentric*), lies on the bounds of three hundreds; Pentridge, in Dorset (an. 958 *Pencric*), lies on the bounds of Wilts. and Dorset. Cricklade (A. S. *Creccagelāde*, *Creocegelāde*, *Cricgelade*, *Crecalade*, D. *Crichelade*) lies on the border of Wilts. and Gloucester; it was also on the frontier of Mercia and Wessex. Then we have 'Crickett,' $2\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Ellesmere; Moore 'Critchell,' 6 m. SW. of Cranbourne; 'Cricket' Malherbie, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of Chard; 'Crickett' St. Thomas, 4 m. SW. of Crewkerne, all on the boundaries of hundreds. In Scotland we find 'Crichope,' Dumfriesshire; 'Crichie,' E. Aberdeenshire; 'Crichton,' NW. Dumfries; Crichton, 6 m. SE. of Dalkeith; and 'Criech,' in N. Fifeshire. Penkridge lies 2 m. N. of Watling Street, and about the same distance from Stretton, the 'supposed' site of the Roman station 'Pennocrucium,' mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus. There is undoubted affinity between

'Pennocrucium' and 'Pencric,' and if Pencric is a Celtic name it was pre-Roman, and it is well known that the Romans adopted native names in Latin forms. There is no evidence that the Romans ever occupied Penkridge; but parishes or manors did not exist in their time, and 'Pencric' may have been the name of a district including the site of Pennocrucium. Professor Rhys (Lectures on Welsh Philology, 2nd ed., 184, and Hibbert Lectures, 1888, 203) deals with the etymology of Penkridge, and reads it *Pencrûg*, the head of the mound; but I think the professor, not finding them recorded in Welsh, has overlooked the undoubted Celtic words *crioch* and *criche*. There is no trace or tradition of any mound at Penkridge, and the passage of *crûg* into *cric* and *crich*, a thousand years ago, with great respect to the professor, I think improbable. I suggest that *Pencric* means 'head or end of the border, a frontier.' The description of Penkridge in the test of the charter of 958, as 'the famous place which is called Pencric,' shows that it was then a place of importance, and an occasional residence of the Mercian kings. There is an ancient thoroughfare road leading from Penkridge to the W. (Newport, Shrewsbury, and Chester), which is known as 'King Street' and is so mentioned in old local deeds.

Penn, 3 m. SW. of Wolverhampton. D. *Penne*; 12 and 13 c. *Penne*, repeatedly. I think this is plain A. S. *penn*, a pen, fold. Penn lay within the limits of Kinver Forest, and probably took its name originally from a cattle pen or fold in the Forest. It must have been a horse or cattle fold, or possibly a swine pen, as goats and sheep were not commonable. Swine also were not commonable without special grant from the king.

Pensnett, now a populous locality in Kingswinford, formerly Pensnett Chase. 1248 *Free chase in the wood of Roger* (*de Somery, Lord of Dudley*) *at Peninak. William* (*Burdett*) *remits his claim, for which Roger grants to him four fat bucks and four does yearly. William to take them on giving a day's notice to the forester of Roger at Duddeley*;

13 c. *a wood called Penniak*, later *Pennak, chase of Pennyoke*; 14 c. *Pensyned, Pensmed chace, Pensned chace, chace of Pensned.* The terminals in the later forms look like A. S. *snæd* (mod. *snead, sneyd* (q. v.)), a detached, cut off, intrusive, or isolated portion of a manor, or anything. It may be that Pensnett Chase was once a part of Kinver Forest, which it adjoined, and, becoming the property of a subject, became a 'chase,' not subject to the laws of the Forest, and, being detached, acquired the terminal *snead*. *Pen* may be W. *pen*, head, end (Pensnett occupies high land); but a W. prefix and A. S. suffix do not commend themselves, and the forms are too late and various for decision.

Perry Barr, 3 m. N. of Birmingham. D. *Pirio*; 12 c. *Pirie, Piri, Pirye*; 13 c. *Pyrie*, frequently. A. S. *pirige* (*g* = *y*), M. E. *pirie*, a pear-tree. *Barr* is a late mediaeval addition made, no doubt, to distinguish it from other Perrys, and because it adjoined Great Barr (q. v.).

Perry Hall, an ancient farm in Wednesfield, 4 m. NE. of Wolverhampton. 13 c. *Thomas de Pyrye*; 14 c. *Robert at Pyrie, Richard, son of Nicholas, at Pyrie, William atte Perye.* A. S. *pirige*, M. E. *pirie*, a pear-tree. *V.* Perry Barr.

Perton, or **Purton,** h., 4 m. W. of Wolverhampton. 11 c. *Pertune*; D. *Pertone*; 12 c. *Pertone.* Though the form is *Pertune* in a charter of Edward the Confessor giving the estate to the monks of Westminster, I have no doubt the original form was *Perigtūn*, the town of the pear-tree. The pronunciation of *Perigtūn* would be Periton, quickly passing into Pirton. Pirton, nr. Worcester, in A. S. charters is *Perigton* and *Pyritūn.*

Picards, h., in Upper Arley, 4 m. NW. of Bewdley. 13 c. *John Picard, son of Hugh de Waban, but commonly called Pikard*; 1315 *John Pykard, John Pikard*; 1476 *Pycardeslondes* (Upper Arley deeds). This example shows how pl. names and family names sometimes arise. Pickard probably means a native of Picardy, in France.

Pillaton, Pillaton Hall, h. and ancient seat of the Littletons, 2 m. E. of Penkridge. 1004 *Bedintun*; D. *Beddintone*. Wulfric Spott, Earl of Mercia, about the year 1004, gave *Bedintun* to the monks of Burton, and they continued to hold it until the suppression of the monasteries. *Bedintun* (Beda's town) is not mentioned after D., and all trace of the name has vanished; but it is well identified with Pillaton. The first form of that name known to me is in 1185, *Pilatehale*; in the 13 c. it appears as *Pylatenhale*, *Pilletenhale*, *Pilatehale*, *Pilitenhale*, and *Piletehale*; 14 c. *Pilatenhale*, and similar forms. It is of course a complete change of name. What led the monks to abandon the venerated name of Beda for an apparent 'Pilate,' it is difficult to imagine. 'Pilate's hall' is unique as a pl. name, but I can place no other construction on the forms. Pillaton lies low, is on a small stream, and so boggy that a chapel, a portion of the old hall, is built on piles. A. S. *pil* (from L. *pilum*) means a pile, but I cannot see, having regard to the forms, how that word can be here represented. I see no reason to believe that 'Pilate' has ever been used as a p. n. in England, and, if here referred to, it must point to the scriptural Pilate. (You could not get the gen. *en* from 'Pilate.' W. H. S.) Cf. Pillaton, a parish in E. Cornwall; but there the root would be in Cornish, which cannot be the case here. There are two 'Pillerton' in S. Warwickshire; but their early forms are *Pilardetune* and *Pilardinton*, clearly from the A. S. p. n. *Pilheard*. The meaning of Pillaton must remain conjectural.

Pipe, a township in Lichfield, 1½ m. from the city. This was a post-D. manor, or rather two manors, Great Pipe and Little Pipe, first found as a pl. name in the 12 c., and always *Pipe* or *Pype*. *Pipe* is an A. S. word, meaning a pipe, and I have no doubt that is the meaning of this name. Lichfield is, and for many centuries has been, supplied with water from springs rising in Pipe Manor, and conveyed by pipes to the city. These springs and pipes are referred to in

13 c. documents as rights of the Dean and Chapter. An ancient family, 'de Pipe,' took their name from Pipe, and carried it, as a M. E. prefix, to Pipe Ridware (q. v.). There is a Pipe 3 m. N. of Hereford (D. *Pipe*), which may have a somewhat similar origin. Pipe Hayes, Pipe Hill, are localities within the old manor.

Pipe Ridware, *v.* Ridware (Pipe).

Pirehill, h., 2 m. S. of Stone. **Pirehill**, Staffordshire Hundred. D. *Pirehel, Pireholle*; 12 c. *Pirehulle, Pirhelle, Pirhulle, Pyrhelle, Pirehul.* The terminal may be safely treated as A. S. *hyll,* M. E. *hull,* hill. The prefix may be a short form of A. S. *pirige,* a pear-tree; that word, in charters, sometimes appears as *piri-* and *pyri-*; and *pirgraf,* a pear-tree orchard, is also found. Nothing else can be made of the prefix in A. S., and it is not a p. n. I think we may construe it 'the hill of the pear-tree.'

Podmore, h., 6 m. NW. of Eccleshall. D. *Podemore*; 13 c. *Poddemere*; 14 c. *Podemor, Podmore.* The prefix has no meaning in A. S. except as a p. n. *Podda* was a p. n., and I read this as 'Podda's moor.'

Portway, the name of many roads in Staffordshire and elsewhere. It is a superstition to suppose, as most antiquaries do, that the name is indicative of a Roman way. *Port,* in A. S., means a port, haven; but it also means a town, and, when used inland, may always be so construed. 'I will that no man buy out of *port,* but have the *port*reeves witness,' &c. (Laws of Edward the Elder). 'And we have ordained that no man buy any property out of *port,* over xx pence,' &c. 'That every marketing be within *port,*' &c. (Æthelstan's Laws). Here *port* is used in the sense of town, or market. *Portstræt, Portweg* ($g = y$), are words frequently occurring in A. S. charters, and mean simply the town or market way. A road so named is presumably of great antiquity, and may be pre-Roman. The name is local, and often applied to *parts* of Roman and other ways leading to market towns, beyond which the name ceases. I know

many Portways which have no pretension to Roman origin. We had thoroughfare roads before the Romans set foot in Britain.

Pouke Hill, in Bentley, 2 m. NW. of Walsall. **Powke Lane,** in Rowley Regis. Many localities bear the name of 'Pouk.' *Pouk*, *Pouke*, *Powke*, are mediaeval forms. The origin is W. *pwca*, I. *pūca*, A. S. *pūcel*, M. E. *pouke*, an elf, sprite, hobgoblin—'Puck.' The word is undoubtedly of Celtic origin, and widely spread. *Pucan-wyl*, Puck's spring, is found in an A. S. charter (Cod. Dip. 408).

Spenser says:—

> 'Ne let the *Pouke*, nor other evil spirit,
> Ne let mischievous witches with their charms,
> Ne let hobgoblins, names whose sense we know not,
> Fray us with things that be not.'

Shakespeare writes:—

> '*Fairy*. Either I mistake your shape and making quite,
> Or else you are that shrewd and knavish sprite
> Called Robin Goodfellow: are you not he
> That frights the maidens of the villagery;
> Skim milk, and sometimes labour in the quern,
> And bootless make the breathless housewife churn;
> And sometime make the drink to bear no barm;
> Mislead night-wanderers, laughing at their harm?
> Those that Hobgoblin call you and sweet *Puck*,
> You do their work, and they shall have good luck:
> Are you not he?
> *Puck*. Fairy, thou speak'st aright;
> I am that merry wanderer of the night,' &c.

In Ireland the form has become *pooka* and *phooca*; hence Pollaphuca in Wicklow, the pool of the Phooka; Puckstown in Louth; Carrigaphooca, county Cork, the rock of the Phooka; Ahaphuca in Limerick, the ford of Phooka. The Norse word for the sprite is *Puki*. (This must be borrowed by W. and I. A native Celtic word cannot appear in both languages with initial *p*. W. H. S.) Pouke Hill is an eminence of basaltic rock, now deeply quarried. It is on cross-roads, and was, a generation ago, wooded and lonely, on the

border of a large heath, and a likely spot to be thought haunted. *V.* Hobs Hole.

Prestwood, an ancient moated homestead and farm in Wednesfield, 3 m. NE. of Wolverhampton. 13 and 14 c. *Prestwode*, frequently. A. S. and M. E. *Prestwode*, Priest's wood. It lay within the bounds of Cannock Forest. Edward III granted it to the Dean and Chapter of Wolverhampton as 'Prestwode,' but the monks probably held it long before. Grants were frequently mere confirmations of title. If a man had no deeds, as was often the case, or they were lost or burned, it was worth his while to get a 'grant' from the king, which he could always do 'for a consideration,' and then his title was indefeasible. The manors of Wednesfield, Hilton, and Featherstone, all adjoining and within the Forest, belonged to the monks before the Conquest. They were indulgent landlords, and allowed enclosures freely, or on very easy terms. Hence the many ancient encroachments and moated sites to the NW. of Wolverhampton.

Prestwood, ancient estate, 3 m. NW. of Stourbridge. 12 c. *Prestewude*; 13 and 14 c. *Prestewode*, *Prestwode*. Priest's wood (*v.* Prestwood in Wednesfield). This Prestwood was in Kinver Forest, and lies on the river Stour. In the 8, 9, and 10 c. the bishops of Worcester held lands 'at Sture, in the province named of old Husmere.' The bishops lost or disposed of this property before 1086, D. not recording them as possessing anything in Staffordshire. Since the Conquest Prestwood has not belonged to any ecclesiastical body, and there can be little doubt its name is derived from the ancient ownership of the bishops of Worcester. The 'province of Husmere' (elsewhere written Usmere) is first recorded in 736 (Cart. Sax. 154), before the formation of counties, and is now represented by 'Ismere' House, 4 m. S. of Prestwood.

Priestfields, h., in Bilston. The property here once belonged partly to the church at Penkridge, partly to the church at Stretton, and partly to a chantry at Bilston; hence the name.

Quarnford, h., 5 m. SW. of Buxton. 1227 *Querneford.* The A. S. had no *q*, *cw* performing its functions. The root is A. S. *cweorn, cwyrn,* M. E. *quern, cwerne.* In Mod. E. *quern* means a hand-mill, but the old meaning was a mill of any kind. The construction is plain 'Mill-ford.' In M. E. *er* is pronounced *ar.* Cf. Quarndon, Derbyshire; Quernmore, N. Lancashire; Quorndon, Leicestershire. Originally all grain was ground by hand, then by cattle, then by water, afterwards by wind. *V.* Gornall.

Queeselet, h., in Great Barr. 16 c. *Quieslade, Queeslade.* M. E. *queest, queast, qucase, queese,* wood-pigeon; A. S. *slæd,* M. E. *slade,* a little valley, open ground in woodland, a glade—the slade of the wood-pigeon. Queeselet lies in a hollow.

Quixhill, h., 5½ m. N. of Uttoxeter. 1236 *Quikeshull*; 14 c. *Quikeshulle, Quickeshull, Quixhulle.* The A. S. having no *q* we must read the prefix as *cwices,* gen. of *cwic. Cwic* means 'living,' whence our 'quick and the dead'; and it has come to mean a 'live' fence, a *quick*set hedge. Here *Cwic* is clearly used in the gen. and possessive sense, and although it was not, alone, a p. n., it formed the prefix of many names, e. g. Cwicheard, Cwichelm, Cwicwine, &c. Either the terminal has dropped out, or the original name was shortened, and we have 'Cwic's hill.'

Radley Moor, in Shenstone. This name is borne by several low-lying fields between Little Aston and Footherly, over which the Icknield Street (q. v.) once ran. Faint traces of the line still remain, but the road itself, for about four miles, has sunk into the bog, emerging from it at both ends. I think the root is A. S. *rād,* M. E. *rade*—the road lea (*v.* Ley). Moor is probably a later addition (cf. Radmore).

Radmore, a district on Cannock Chase. In the valley or plain at the foot of Castle Rings, between Lodge Hill, Gentleshaw, and Cannock Wood, close to Nun's Well, is a moat (now mostly dry) marking the site of a hunting lodge of the early kings. Henry II was an occasional

visitor here, and expedited several charters from 'Radmore.' There was also a monastery hard by (site unknown), which removed to Stoneleigh, in Warwickshire, in the latter part of the 12 c. The road to the king's house, and to the monastery from the SW., led over the moor, and would be the principal approach to those places, as also to Castle Rings, a British fort. In early records the name is spelt *Radmore* and *Rademore*. I think it is A. S. *rād*, M. E. *rade*, a road, and A. S. and M. E. *mōr*, *more*, a moor—the road moor. 'Radmore Lane,' 2 m. W. of Gnosall, appears to be on an ancient road to Chester, and 'Radmore Plain,' 3 m. S. of Market Bosworth, is upon an ancient way, apparently Roman, leading out of Watling Street at Mancetter (*Manduessedum*) to Leicester. *V.* Radley Moor.

Rake End, Rake Lane, Rakeway, Rakemoor, The Rakes or **Raikes.** These are common field or local names. The root is M. E. *rake*, *raike*, a way, path. The word is sometimes used as a suffix, e. g. Whiterake, Wainrake, Dirty-rake, Highrake, Deeprake, Hardrake, Outrake, Great Rakes. In the Lake Country it is commonly applied to the narrow paths along which sheep are driven to the fell. In the Midlands the name is often applied to localities adjoining ancient commons through which the cattle were driven to pasture. An 'Outrake' was on the edge of the common, and the stock was there collected for driving out, or driving home. The root is doubtless O. N. *reik*, a way, path. The word must have trickled down from the N. since the Conquest. It is common in Derbyshire and N. Staffordshire; I have not met with it S. of Shenstone. The word appears to have been applied to cattle roads, sheeptracks, and field ways, not to thoroughfare roads or public highways. From Great Rakes we get our family names Greatrex and Greatorex.

Ramshorn, or **Ramsor,** 8 m. W. of Ashbourne. 13 c. *Romesovere*; 14 c. *Rommessore*; 16 c. *Ramsore.* The terminal is clearly A. S. *ōfer*, M. E. *over*, *ovre* (frequently shortened to *ore*), a bank, border. A. S. *ramm*, *romm*, means

a ram, and this may be 'the ram's bank'; but earlier forms might lead to another conclusion. *Ram* was not a p. n. until after the Conquest (and Ramshorn probably bore its name before then). (The A. S. p. n. *Hræfn* became *Hræmn* (by assimilation of *fn* to *mn*), later *Hrem*, and the prefix here may represent this name. Ramsley, in Salop, in the 11 c. appears both as *Ramesleage* and *Hremesleage*, the latter form clearly pointing to the p. n. W. H. S.)

Ranton or **Ronton,** 5 m. W. of Stafford. D. *Rantone*; 13 c. *Raunton*, *Ronton*, frequently. I think the prefix is A. S. *rand*, M. E. *rand*, *rond*, an edge, border. The manor of Ranton lies in Pirehill hundred, on the border of Cuddlestone hundred. The falling out of the *d* would be regular. Ranworth (Norfolk) is *Randwrth* in an A. S. charter. D. records two *Randebi* (Lincolnshire), both now Ranby, and two *Rande*, now *Rand*, the *d*, being final, having survived. I translate Ranton 'Border town' (*v.* Ton). *Rand* still lives as a dialectic word; rushes on the borders and edges of land near a river are called 'rands' (Halliwell's Dict. of Archaic and Prov. Words).

Rawnpike Oak, a great ancient tree in the fence of Beaudesert Park at the foot of Castle Rings, near the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery, now hollow and somewhat stag-headed. It has been known by this name during living memory. *Rawnpike*, *Ranpike*, and *Rampick*, as it is occasionally pronounced and spelt, is a dialectic word (origin unknown) for a stag-headed tree, i. e. a tree having dead boughs standing out of its top. It is used in America, and in 1890 the forester of Bagot's Park called my attention to some 'rawn' oaks. I think it probable that Rawnpike Oak has given name to the modern village of Rawnsley, half a mile off.

Ray or **Rea Hall,** Great Barr, an ancient estate and house, now a farm. 1215 '*William of Rehall.*' This farm is bounded by the river Tame; hence the name. *Rea*, *Ray*, *Rhee*, give name to several small streams in England, e. g. in Salop, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Herts, Oxford-

shire, and Cambridgeshire. Some writers assign a Celtic origin to the word, but apparently without authority. I think it is simply A. S. *ea*, a stream, with *r* added to it. In A. S. charters *on thære ea*, on the river, is commonly met with. In M. E. this becomes *on ther ē*, and in Mod. E. *on the ree*, or *rea*, and so we build up a new word to the bewilderment of etymologists. I do not think that *Rea*, as a river name, is to be found in any A. S. charter. If that be so the presumption is very strong that it is not a Celtic or an A. S. word, but is M. E. The Rea, in Salop, was anciently the Neen (*v.* Nechells, Nurton, and Skeat's A Student's Pastime, 400).

Rickerscote, h., 2 m. S. of Stafford. D. *Ricardescote*; 13 c. *Rikardescote*. A. S. p. n. *Ricard*—Ricard's cottage. Ricard = Richard.

Ridge, in Standon, 8 m. SW. of Stoke. D. *Rigge*. A. S. *hrycg*, M. E. *rigge*, *rugge*, a ridge. The word is extensively used in pl. names, and means a ridge of elevated land, sometimes slight elevations.

Ridgway, Rudgeway (The). This name is frequently borne by Roman and other ancient roads. The root is A. S. *hrycg*, M. E. *rugge*, *rigge*, the ridged way, meaning, generally, a road ditched on both sides, in convex shape. The mediaeval forms are generally *Ruggewey*, *la Rugge*, *Ruggeway*. The old Chester road between Castle Bromwich and Stonnall was anciently, and still is, known as the Rudgeway. The Roman way from Chester to Worcester over Rudge heath (between Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth) is recorded as *la Rugge*, and also as *the Stanwey* (Stone way). Antiquaries assume that the name is proof of Roman origin, but it is not so, nor is Portway (q. v.). The name appears in A. S. charters as *Hrycweg*, *Ricweg* (*g* = *y*), *Ruggestræt*, and *Rugweie*.

Ridware (Hamstall), 4 m. E. of Rugeley. D. *Rideware*, *Ridvare*; 13 c. *Rydewar Hamstal*, *Ridware Hampstal*. A. S. *hamsteall*, M. E. *hamstal*, homestead. For Ridware *v.* Ridware (Mavesyn).

Ridware (Hill), h., in Mavesyn Ridware; 13 c. *le Hulle*; 14 c. *William o' th' hull*, *Hull causey* (causeway), *Alwynes hull*. *V.* Ridware (Mavesyn). M. E. *hull* = hill.

Ridware (Mavesyn), 3 m. SE. of Rugeley. 1004 *Rideware*; D. *Riduare* (*u* = *w*). For later forms see other Ridwares. Etymologists are always loth to accept a name as compounded of two languages; but this is a clear case. The prefix is W. *rhyd*, river, and A. S. *wara*, M. E. *ware*, people, folk, inhabitants = river people. The Ridwares, i. e. Mavesyn Ridware, Hill Ridware, Pipe Ridware, and Hamstall Ridware, are enclosed by the Blythe and Trent, and in primitive times, when bridges were rare, must have been difficult of access, and the inhabitants an isolated community. *Ware* forms the terminal to many A. S. compound words, e. g. *Merscwara*, marsh folk; *Ceasterweara*, city folk; *Cantware*, people of Kent; *Wihtware*, Isle of Wight folk, &c. Mavesyn (pr. Mason) is a mediaeval addition. The Malveysin or Malvoisin family held the manor in the 12, 13, and 14 c., when it passed to females.

Ridware (Pipe), 4 m. E. of Rugeley. D. *Ridware*; 12 c. *Rideware*; 13 c. *Media* (middle) *Ridware*, *Parva* (little) *Ridware*; 14 c. *Pipe Ridware*. For Ridware *v.* Ridware (Mavesyn). The 'de Pipe' family held the manor in the 13 and 14 c. They came from Pipe, nr. Lichfield (q. v.).

Rocester, 5 m. N. of Uttoxeter. D. *Rowecestre*; 12 c. *Roffecestre*; 13 c. *Rowecestre*. The terminal A. S. *ceaster*, *ceastre*, a fortress, castle, is always indicative of a Roman station, stone buildings being novel to the Anglo-Saxons. In Mercian dialect it is pronounced *chester*, sometimes softened to *cester*. In Northumbrian dialect, under Norse influence, the *c* sometimes hardens, and we have Caistor and -caster. The prefix is the A. S. p. n. *Hrof*, modern 'Ralph'—Hrof's castle. Rochester, in Kent, was *Hrofesceastre*. (This corresponds to O. E. *Hrædwulf*, being a French form of Frankish *Rāthulf*. W. H. S.) A Roman road from Derby to Chesterton, 2 m. N. of Newcastle, passed through Rocester.

Rodbaston, h., 2 m. S. of Penkridge. D. *Redbaldestone*; 12 c. *Rodbaldestone.* This is Rodbeald's town (*v.* Ton). At the time of D. Rodbaston was held by 'Richard the Forester.' His descendants the de Crocs, and afterwards the de Brocs and de Loges, were chief foresters of Cannock Forest and resided at Rodbaston, probably in the moated site called Rodbaston Old Hall. The house has long ago disappeared.

Rolleston, 4 m. N. of Burton-on-Trent. 942 *Rothulfeston*; 1004 *Rolfestun*; D. *Rolvestune*; later *Rolvestone.* This is Hrothwulf's town. The form of 1004 shows how early corrupt or short forms set in. There are four other Rollestons in England.

Rowley Regis, 3 m. SE. of Dudley. 12 c. *Rueley, Rohele, Roele, Rueleg*; 13 c. *Rueleg, Roule.* The prefix is A. S. *rūh*, M. E. *rogh, row, rou, ru, ruh*, rough, uncultivated; the terminal *ley* (q. v.), pasture, untilled land, lea—the rough lea. The A. S. and M. E. forms for 'rough' were not pronounced *ruff* as now, but *row* (as in *cow*). Hence Rowley. Pronunciation has changed quite as much as spelling. The manor belonged to the king at the time of D., hence Regis. A manor once royal acquired and maintained valuable privileges. To have been 'of royal demesne' was a cherished tenure.

Rownall, h., in Cheddleton, 6½ m. NW. of Cheadle. D. *Rugehala*; 13 c. *Roughenhale, Rowenhale.* The prefix is A. S. *rūh*, M. E. *rogh, row, ru, ruh*, and the terminal a form of *healh*, meadow-land (*v.* Hale)—the rough meadow. (The adj. *rūh* produced regularly in the weak declension *ruwa*, with *rūwan* in the oblique cases; so that the dative would be *rūwan* (sometimes written *rūgan*) *heale*, whence Rownall has regularly descended. W. H. S.)

Rudyard, 2 m. NW. of Leek. 1004 *Rudegeard*; D. *Rudierd*; 13 c. *Rudyerd.* The terminal is A. S. *geard* (*g* = *y*), M. E. *yeard, yerd*, a yard, enclosure. (The prefix perhaps represents a p. n. *Ruda* (*Rudda* is recorded), the gen. form

being *Rudangeard*, Ruda's yard. This by 1004 would probably be shortened to *Rudegeard*. W. H. S.)

Rugeley. D. *Rugelei*; 12 c. *Ruggeley*, *Ruggleg*. A. S. *hrycg*, M. E. *rugge*, *rigge*, and *ley* (q. v.)—the ridge lea. Rugeley town is on a plain in the valley of the Trent, but the greater part of the manor is on Cannock Chase, a lofty ridge, at the foot of which the town lies. The natives keep up the old pronunciation 'Ridgeley.'

Rule, h., 6 m. SW. of Stafford. 12 c. *Ruwell*; 13 c. *Reule*, *Rewle*, *Rule*, *Rewelle*, *Rewel*, *Rewele*, *Rewell*, *Ruwel*, *Rewel*, *Ruwe*, *Rue*, *Rewyl*; 14 c. *Reul*. The terminal is clearly A. S. *wella*, M. E. *welle*, a well (spring). The prefix seems to be A. S. *rūh*, M. E. *rugh*, *ru*, *rouwe*, rough—the rough spring. *Ruwan cnol*, the rough knoll, *Rugandīc*, the rough ditch, *Ruganhege*, the rough hedge, are forms found in A. S. charters. *V.* Rowley Regis and Rownall.

Rushall, 2 m. NE. of Walsall. D. *Rischale*; 12 c. *Ruishale*, *Ruissale*, *Rushale*. A. S. *rysc*, *risc* (*sc* = *sh*), M. E. *rische*, *rusche*, *rishe*, rush, and *hale* (q. v.)—the rushy pasture. The terminal might be construed 'hall,' but as halls were never built of rushes it is more reasonable to construe it as a form of A. S. *healh*. A considerable part of the manor is low-lying and wet, and before drainage was general must have been rushy; some parts are still so. *Rush* forms the prefix to many pl. names, and there are two other Rushalls in England. *Risc heale*, *hrisc heale*, *risc hale*, *hrischalh*, *rischale*, are forms frequently met with in A. S. charters, pointing to meadow-land rather than to a 'hall.'

Rushton, h., in Leek. D. *Riseton*; 13 c. *Ruston*. **Rushton Grange,** h., in Burslem. D. *Riseton*. Rushton means 'the rushy town (enclosure).' *V.* Ton and Rushall.

Salt, h., $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of Stafford. 1004 *Halen*; D. *Selte*; 13 c. *Saut*, frequently. *Halen* is the O. W. name, and means 'salt.' It is 'Halen' in the will of Wulfric Spott and the

foundation deed of Burton Abbey, 1004. A. S. *sealt* is salt. There are ancient saltworks at Weston-on-Trent, and Shirleywich, 2 m. off, but no traces of works or surface brine springs at Salt. The 13 c. forms *Saut* show the popular pronunciation of the word to be very old. The probability is that, originally, 'Halen' was a name applied to a salt-producing district, as *Wich* (now Droitwich) gave name to the sub-kingdom of the Wiccii ($c = ch$), i. e. salt-men.

Salters Bridge, over Tame, between Alrewas and Elford. 14 c. *Saltebrugge, Saltsbrugge, Salterbrugge. Brugge* is one of the M. E. forms for 'bridge.' It is called 'Salters' because it carries the Saltway, an ancient road from the saltworks at Weston-on-Trent and Shirleywich to the E. A. S. *sealtere,* M. E. *salter, saltare,* means a salt-dealer, but the term was commonly applied to the salt-carriers. Salt was formerly, for various reasons, a greater necessity of life than it is now, and was conveyed on packhorses all over the kingdom. The roads frequented by these carriers were called Saltways, and are frequently mentioned in A. S. charters. They radiate in all directions from salt towns. The road in question is still known, in places, as the Saltway, though it is here and there entirely disused. When the bridge was rebuilt, about sixty years ago, the county authorities 'labelled' it 'Chetwynd' Bridge; but the old name prevails. The Saltways were used until the beginning of the 18 c., when they were gradually superseded by canals. Dr. Barth tells us that in Africa he fell in with a caravan of 3,000 camels loaded with salt, on a journey of 1,800 miles. There is a 'Saltersford Lane' and 'Salters Bridge' 2 m. NW. of Rocester, apparently on a road from the saltworks at Weston and Shirleywich to Ashbourne and parts of Derbyshire.

Salters Lane, Walsall Wood. This is a branch of the Saltway referred to under Salters Bridge, and leads to Birmingham.

Saltwells, Salters Hall, 3 m. SW. of Dudley. Plot's Staffordshire, p. 98, says: 'In Pensnet chase, S. from Dudley about a mile and a half, there is a weak brine (spring) belonging to the Right Honorable Edward Lord Ward, of which his lordship once attempted to make salt; but the brine proving too weak he thought fit to desist.' *V.* Salters Bridge.

Sandon, 5 m. SE. of Stone. D. *Scandone, Sandon*; 12 c. *Sandone, Sandon.* The *c* in the D. form is probably an error. The root is doubtless A. S. *sand-dūn*, sandhill.

Sandwell, an ancient priory and estate in Westbromwich. 13 c. *Saundwell, Sandwell.* A. S. *sand*, M. E. *sand, sond*, sand, and A. S. *wiell*, M. E. *welle, well*, a spring, fountain—the sandy spring. Wells, as we understand them, were, I think, unknown to the Anglo-Saxons. A spring utilized as a supply of water was called a well. We say still 'the Seven Wells,' meaning seven springs. The spring which gave rise to this name still flows in the grounds at Sandwell.

Saredon (Great), h., in Shareshill, 3 m. SW. of Cannock. D. *Sardone*; 13 c. *Sardon, Saredune, Beresardon, Beresardun.* 'Bere,' because the le Bere or le Boer family were, for a time, its lords. In an A. S. charter of 994 describing the bounds of Hatherton, an adjoining manor, a brook forming the boundary is mentioned as *Seares*brook. The same brook in an Inquisition of the 14 c. is '*Sare*brok in Sarden.' *Searu* was an A. S. p. n., of which *Sear* was evidently a short form, as Salisbury, in A. S. charters, is *Searsbyrig, Sælesberig, Searbyrig, Seresbyrig*, and in D. *Searebyrig*, Sear's burgh (*v.* Bury). I should expect *Sear* in M. E. to become *Sare.* It is possible that the p. n. represented may have been *Sægær* (*g* = *y*). I construe Saredon as Sear's or Sægær's hill. It is noteworthy that a yeoman family of 'Sayer' have lived in the vicinity time out of mind, and still flourish there. It is not unlikely that they are descendants of the original 'Sear' or 'Sægær' who gave name to Saredon. Great Saredon stands on a conspicuous hill.

Saredon (Little), h., in Shareshill, 3 m. SW. of Cannock. D. *Seresdone*; 1262 *Sardon*; 15 c. *Saerdon*. Great and Little Saredon were separate manors, though only hamlets in the parish of Shareshill. *V.* Saredon (Great).

Scotlands (The), h., in Bushbury, 3 m. N. of Wolverhampton. The h. is situate at the corner of a triangular piece of land, bounded on all sides by roads. I construe it A. S. *scēatlandes*, corner lands. The root has nothing to do with A. S. and M. E. *scot*, tribute, payment. I have seen the deeds from the time of King John, and no special payment has ever been chargeable upon the land. There are several Scotlands in England. In the N. we may reasonably expect *Scot* to have some reference to Scotland or Scotsmen, but not in the Midlands.

Seabridge, h., 2 m. SW. of Newcastle. 13 c. *Sheperugge*, *Shepbrugge*. A. S. *sceāp*, *scēp*, M. E. *shep*, sheep, and M. E. *rugge*, ridge, or *brugge*, bridge. As the terminals conflict they may be read either way; but the right one must be *brugge*, as the h. does not lie on a ridge, but in a valley where two streams meet. It is doubtless 'Sheepbridge.'

Sedgley, 3 m. S. of Wolverhampton. c. 1006 *Secges lea*; D. *Segleslei*; 13 c. *Seggesleye*, frequently. The gen. *es* in the forms points to a p. n. *Secg* is a name frequently met with in charters, e. g. *Secgesbearuwe*, *Secges-geat*, *Secges-leah*, *Secceslea*, *Secgesmere*, &c. This is clearly 'Secg's lea' (*v.* Ley).

Seighford, 3 m. NW. of Stafford. D. *Cesteforde*; 12 c. *Cesteforde*; 13 c. *Cesteford*, frequently, and *Sesteford*; 14 c. *Sesteford*. (From the later forms it is evident that the D. *st* here must have its usual value, i. e. it represents an O. E. *ht*, so that *Cesteford* would seem to represent an O. E. *Seohta-*, probably *Seohtre-ford*, from *seohtre*, 'brook, ditch'—the ford of the brook or ditch. W. H. S.)

Seisdon, Staffordshire hundred. **Seisdon**, h., in Trysull, 6 m. SW. of Wolverhampton. The hundred doubtless derives its name from the hamlet; so that both

may be taken together. D. *Seisdone*, *Saisdone*; 12 and 13 c. *Seisdon*, frequently, *Seisden*. The terminal is doubtless the Celtic and A. S. *dūn*, a hill, but the prefix does not appear to be A. S. In W. *Seis* and *Sais* mean a Saxon, and I suggest that the meaning is 'Saxon's hill.' The Welsh appear to have been in possession of the country round Wolverhampton at the end of the 6 c., as in 592 the A. S. Chronicle tells us 'there was a great slaughter in Britain at *Wodensbeorge*' (Wednesbury), 'and Ceawlin' (King of the West Saxons) 'was driven out.' It is therefore not unlikely that Seisdon is a W. survival. (This is unlikely. It means that the retiring Welsh called an *English* fortress *Seis-dun*, and that the English adopted the name from their enemies! W. H. S.) I admit the force of Mr. Stevenson's note, but can suggest no other meaning. I do not think the prefix represents a p. n.

Shallowford, h., 5 m. SW. of Stone. 13 c. *Schaldeford*, frequently. A. S. *sceald* (*sc* = *sh*), M. E. *shealde*, *scheld*, and *ford* (q. v.), the shallow ford. It is curious that the *ow* should have been maintained; the usual modern form of such a name would be 'Shalford.'

Shareshill, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Wolverhampton. D. *Servesed*; 12 c. *Sareshulf*; 13 c. *Sarnesculf*, *Sarneshull*, *Sharnshull*, *Shareshulle*, *Sareshull*; 14 c. *Shareshulle*. The D. terminal *ed* probably represents A. S. *hæth*, a heath, the Norman scribes commonly using *d* for a medial or final *th*; some of the subsequent forms are clearly A. S. *scylf*, M. E. *schelfe*, a shelf (of land) (*v.* Shelfield), and the later forms are M. E. *hull*, a hill. They cannot be reconciled, and are plain variants of terminal. The *n* in three of the 13 c. forms is probably a mistake, or an error in transcription, for *v*; assuming this (and the *n* is certainly intrusive), the forms of the prefix are reconcilable, and point to the A. S. p. n. *Sceorf* (pr. *Shorf*), and the original forms would be *Sceorfeshæth*, *-scylf*, or *-hull*, according to the terminal accepted. *Sceorfes-mōr*

(moor) is found in Cod. Dip. 650, and *Sceorfesstede* (stead) in 198 and 409. I am indebted for this interpretation to W. H. S.

Shatterford, h., in Upper Arley, 4 m. NW. of Kidderminster (on the road to Bridgnorth called in a charter of 994 'the Ridgeway'). 994 *Sciteresford*; 1286 *Sheteresford*. This is A. S. *scytere* (*sc* = *sh*), a shooter, archer—the archer's ford. *Scytere* is not recorded as a p. n., but may have been one.

Sheen, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Longnor, NE. Staffs. D. *Sceon*. This is the only form I have met with. A. S. *scīne*, *scēne*, *sceōne* (*sc* = *sh*), variant forms, mean beautiful, and I suppose that is the meaning of 'Sheen.' The place is bounded by the Dove, the Manifold, and a tributary stream. One of the meanings of *scīne*, &c., is 'a delusive appearance,' and that meaning *may* attach to the name in consequence of the disappearance and reappearance of the Manifold, as described under Dove (q. v.); *v.* also Shenstone. Sheen in Surrey is *Sceōn* in A. S. charters.

Shelfield, h., 3 m. N. of Walsall. D. *Scelfeld*; 13 c. *Schelfhul*, *Shelfhull*, *Schelfehulle*. The terminals in the later forms are preferable to the D. *-feld*. Shelfield is a moderately elevated plateau sloping on all sides. The root is A. S. *scilfe*, M. E. *shelfe*, a shelf; in pl. names it means a shelve or slope. The terminal is A. S. *hyll*, M. E. *hull*, a hill = the shelving hill. The popular pronunciation is not Shelfield, but Shelfill. *Shelf* and *Shelve* are common prefixes and terminals.

Shelton. D. *Scelfitone*; 1189 *Schelton*; 13 c. *Selfton*; 14 c. *Schelton*. The D. form doubtless represents an A. S. *Scilfetūn*, the town on the shelve or slope = tableland. *V.* Shelfield. The passage of *sc* to *sch* and *sh* is regular.

Shenstone, 3 m. S. of Lichfield. 11 c. *Scenstan*; D. *Seneste*; 12 c. *Shenestan*, *Senestan*, *Shenestane*; 13 c. *Shenestan*, *Schenestane*; 14 c. *Schenestone*. D. apparently blunders.

The other forms give a plain A. S. *scenestān* (*sc* = *sh*), beautiful (or bright) stone. In M. E. *scene* becomes *schene*, *shene*, and *stān*, *stan*, *stane*, stone, so that the forms are regular, and there can be no mistake as to the meaning, strange though it be. There is no beautiful stone at Shenstone, or any record or tradition of one. The Watling Street and Icknield Street both run through the manor, and near the junction is the site of the Roman city Etocetum, now Wall, a h. in Shenstone. The Roman city may have furnished material for the name. *V.* Sheen.

Shoal Hill, on Cannock Chase, 2 m. NW. of Cannock. 1300 *Sholle.* A. S. dictionaries give *sceolh* as meaning oblique, wry; but it also meant sloping, slant, and is so recognized in its M. E. form *schol.* The western side of Shoal Hill is a long steady slope to the plain at its foot, and that is the origin of the name.

Shobnall, h., 2 m. W. of Burton-on-Trent. 13 and 14 c. *Shobenhale*, *Scobenhale*, both frequently. The A. S. form would be *Sceobanhale*, the hall of Sceoba. An A. S. *sc* is equivalent to a M. E. *sch* or *sh*; the *n* is the gen. addition.

Showells (The), an ancient farm and estate, once a manor, in Bushbury, 2 m. N. of Wolverhampton. The site of the homestead is moated. It lay within the bounds but on the border of Cannock Forest. 13 c. *Sewalle*, *Sewale*; 14 c. *Seawall*, *Sewall*; 16 c. *Shewells*, *Seawall*, *Sewall.* This word is not generally recognized as A. S., but I think it is related to the A. S. verb *sceawian*, M. E. *schewen*, to scrutinize, reconnoitre, examine (the *sc* = our *sh*). It is first found in our literature circa 1225, in the poem of The Owl and the Nightingale, as *sheules* and *scheawles* in the sense of a scarecrow. It had probably been in common use before 1225, or it would hardly have occurred in the poem. Turberville's Book of Hunting, an. 1575, says: 'Anything that is hung up is called a *Sewel.* And those are used most commonly to amaze a Deare, and make him refuse to pass where they

are hanged up.' Sir Philip Sidney says in Arcadia, 1534: 'So are these bugbeares of opinions brought by great clearks into the world to serve as *shewelles* to keep them from those faults whereto else the vanity of the world and weakness of senses might pull them.' Halliwell (Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words) says: '*Sewell*, a scarecrow, which generally consisted of feathers tied to a string to prevent deer from breaking ground, by frightening them.' Nares' Glossary gives the word as *shewelles*. Coles' Dictionary of Hard Words, 1738, says: '*Sewel*, a thing set to keep out deer.' In Ellis's Letters, 2nd S. ii. 61, referring to a visitation at Oxford during the suppression of the monasteries in 1535, and to the destruction of condemned books, the Visitors say that when they came to New College, they found the great Quadrant Court full of the leaves of Duns Scotus (an ancient Oxford textbook), and they add: 'We fownde one Mr. Grenefelde gethering up part of the said bowke leiffs (as he said) there to make him *sewells* or *blawnsherrs* to keep the Dere within the woode, thereby to have the better cry with his howndes.' *Blawnshers* or *blanchers* appear to have the same meaning as *sewells* or *shewelles*. Sir Philip Sidney says (Arcadia, p. 64): 'And so manie dayes were spent, and manie waies used, while Zelmaine was like one that stood in a tree waiting a good occasion to shoot, and Gynecia a *blancher*, which kept the dearest deere from her.' Christopher Wace writes (1654): 'The ancients did formerly set up feathers in a line in their hunting to fray the beasts. We know that if one set up a piece of white paper it will make the deer blanch and balk that way.' *Blancher*, *blawnsherr*, *blaunsher*, are old words meaning, in hunting phrase, a person or thing placed to turn the deer from a particular direction; *v.* H. E. D. *s.* 'Blancher.' In O. E. *shew* and *show* are synonyms, both pronounced 'show,' *show* being the older form. They mean 'to exhibit, to present to view.' I suggest that the Showells was an ancient

enclosure on the Forest, and that these *sewells* or *shewelles* were used, probably on the hedgetops, to prevent the deer passing from the Forest on to the enclosed land. There is a 'Shewell Wood,' 5 m. N. of Cirencester; a 'Showell Grange' and 'Showell Mill,' 5 m. from Newport, Salop; 'Showell Green,' 5 m. from Solihull; 'Sewell,' 3 m. from Luton, in Beds; 'Sheweles Wood' nr. Rendcomb, Gloucestershire; a 'Showell Farm,' between Melksham and Chippenham in Wilts.; a 'Showels' farm, 4½ m. NE. of Hungerford; and a 'Show Hill' in Penn. All these places are within, or on the confines of, ancient forests or chases.

Shredicote, h., near Stafford. 13 c. *Shradicote,* frequently. The root is A. S. *screade,* M. E. *schreade, shrede,* a piece cut off, Mod. Eng. 'shred.' The locality was probably a detached, isolated, or outlying portion of a manor or estate. Sneyd, Snead (q. v.), has precisely the same meaning. *Cote* = cottage.

Shugborough, hamlet and hall in Colwich, 4 m. E. of Stafford. 14 c. *Shokkeburgh, Shukburgh, Shutborrow*; 16 c. *Shutborrow, Shokesborow, Shukesborow, Shuchborow, Shukborow*; 17 c. *Shutborough.* There can be no doubt that Shuckburgh in Warwickshire and Shugborough have a common origin, and it will be convenient to consider them together. Shuckburgh in D. is *Socheberge* (*ch* = *k*), and its later forms are *Suckeberge, Succeberge, Shukborrow,* and *Shuckborough.* It is clear that the terminals in both cases are variant forms of A. S. *beorg,* M. E. *beoruh, borew, burgh, barough,* Mod. Eng. *barrow,* a tumulus, low, or burial-mound. The prefix in both cases is *scucca* (*sc* = *sh*), which in M. E. becomes *scucke,* later *schucke,* a demon, an evil spirit, the devil. The form is found in an 8 c. charter relating to property in Berkshire (Cod. Dip. 161), *Scuccanhlau, Scuccan* being the genitive form of *Scucca* (*sc* = *sh*), and *hlau,* a low, or burial-mound—the demon low, in other words 'the bewitched barrow,' the precise meaning of Shugborough. I cannot identify this *Scuccanhlau* with any present pl. n. If extant its form ought

now to be 'Shucklow.' No traces of a low exist at Shugborough, but so many lows have been destroyed in the course of ages that its absence is but little argument against the construction. Tumuli were formerly regarded with reverence or superstition, and I have known farmers who would never plough them, considering it unlucky. In Ireland the sentiment still prevails, and they are commonly supposed to be the resort of fairies, &c. In A. S. charters they are frequently referred to as 'the heathen burials.' Shugborough is still commonly pronounced *Shuk*borough.

Shushions, an ancient moated homestead, manor, and estate, 5 m. W. of Penkridge. D. *Sceotestan*; 13 c. *Shustan*, *Shuston*, *Schuston*; 14 c. *Shustone*. The prefix is A. S. *sceot*, *scot* (*sc* = *sh*), M. E. *schot*, *schūte*, *scūte*, shot, shooting. In M. E. *schutte* means an archer, and, as *Scot* was an A. S. p. n., there can be no doubt the name Scot was originally applied to an archer. The right terminal is *stan*, stone, and I construe the name as 'Scot's stone'; it may be 'the archer's stone'; but probably the original 'Scot' was so named because he was a good shot. The family name Shutt is equivalent to Archer, and families of Scot (often assumed to be of Scottish descent) are probably A. S. *V.* Shustoke.

Shustoke, an ancient moated homestead and farm in Great Barr, 2 m. SE. of Walsall. I have no forms earlier than the 17 c., since when they have been as now. Shustoke nr. Coleshill, Warwickshire, was *Shuttestoke* in the 14 c. In this case I should assume the A. S. form (if the place was of A. S. origin) to be *Sceotes* or *Scotestōc* (*sc* = *sh*), and the M. E. form *Schuttestoke*; *Stōc*, *Stoke*, means a fenced-in place, much akin to Ton (q. v.)—Shutt's (or the archer's) place. The p. names *Scot* (when of Southern origin) and *Shutt* are both from A. S. *sceot*, an archer; they are only variants in the pronunciation of the *sc*. *V.* Shushions.

Silkmore, h., 1 m. S. of Stafford. D. *Selchmore*; 13 and

14 c. *Silkemor, Selkemer, Selkemor, Selkmore.* This seems to be A. S. *scolc*, M.E. *silk*, *selke*, and *more* (q. v.), a moor; though it seems absurd to talk of a 'silk moor.' One of the terminals points to *mere*, a pool, but that is still more unlikely. It may be 'silken,' in the sense of soft, smooth (Silkmore lies in soft fertile meadows). There is no other *Selchmore* in D., and I believe 'Silkmore' is unique. (Perhaps originally *Seolcan-mōr*, Seolca's moor, from p.n. *Seolca*. W.H.S.) Very likely. *Seolcan-mōr* would become *Selkmore*. Cf. Silkstone, W. R., Yorks.; Silksworth, N.E. Durham; Silkby, S. Lincs.

Slindon, h., 3 m. N. of Eccleshall. D. *Slindone*; 13 c. *Slyndon.* The terminal is plainly A. S. *dūn*, a hill (*v.* Don); but I can make nothing of the prefix; it does not appear to represent a p. n. Cf. Slindon and Slinfold in Sussex.

Smallrice (or **-rise**), h., 5 m. SE. of Stone. 13 c. *Smallris, Smalerys.* This is M. E. *smal-rise*, a small rise (of ground).

Smestow or **Smestall,** river, rises in Bushbury, and falls into Stour nr. Stourton. 1300 *Smethestall*; 1361 *Smethestalle.* This is probably a M. E. name. It means 'the stalls or places of the Smiths or Smithies', *smethe* being a M. E. form of A. S. *smith.* The lower portions of the Smestow, and the Stour on its entire course, were formerly utilized for the manufacture of iron, and the remains of old bloomeries and smithies are abundant upon the banks. Kinver Forest supplied the fuel, and the streams the power. As wood and water were superseded by coal and steam, the old works gradually fell into decay.

Smethwick, 3 m. W. of Birmingham. D. *Smedewich* (*d* = *th*); 12 c. *Smeythewik, Smethewyke.* A.S. and M.E. *smēthe*, smooth, flat, level surface, and A. S. *wic*, M.E. *wich, wyke*, a village (*v.* Wich)—the village on the plain. Smethwick lies on a plain at the foot of the Rowley Hills, a lofty range of igneous rock. Exs.: Smeeth nr. Ashford, Kent; Smethcot nr. Church Stretton, Salop; Smethwick, Cheshire;

Smeaton nr. Pontefract; The Smeath nr. King's Lynn; Markham Smeath nr. Swaffham. *V.* also Enville, which has a similar meaning.

Sneyd (The), h., 3 m. NW. of Walsall. 1410 *Snede.* A. S. *snæd*, M. E. *snāde, snede*, means a piece, fragment, something cut off; and, in pl. names, is commonly applied to an outlying, detached, privileged, or intrusive portion of a manor or other division. This Sneyd is a portion of the manor of Essington, which intrudes, wedge-like, into the manors of Walsall and Wednesfield. N. of Derbyshire, under Northern influence, the form is *Snaith*, from O. N. *sneith*, which has the same meaning. Exs.: Snead Common nr. Stourport; Snedhill, S. of Wellington, Salop; Upper Snead, Lower Snead, Snead Common, nr. Mamble, Salop; Snead Coppice nr. Wenlock; Snead (parish), E. Montgomeryshire; Sneyd nr. Burslem; Snaith, in Yorkshire. In Chirbury manor, Salop, there is a 'Snead' hamlet nr. Bishop's Castle, anciently *Sneth*, *Snede*, formerly belonging to Augustine monks; it appears at one time to have been a separate manor, owing exclusive allegiance to the chatellany of Montgomery, and was independent of Chirbury hundred.

Somerford, h., 1 m. E. of Brewood, on the Penk river. 13 c. *Somerford.* The terminal is plainly 'ford' (q. v.), and there is no reason to doubt that the prefix is A. S. *sumor*, M. E. *sumor*, *somer*, summer; but 'Summer ford' is not entirely satisfactory, unless we could believe that, at some period, the Penk was usually only fordable here in summer. D. records thirty-one manors commencing '*Sumor-*,' and six '*Sumreford*' (Somerford).

Sow, river, tributary of Trent. 12 and 13 c. *Sowe.* There is a river Sow in Ireland, and another in Warwickshire which is *Sow* and *Sowe* in A. S. charters, and *Sowa* in D. I strongly suspect that *sow* and *sough* are variants of the same word, and mean a sough, drain, channel (perhaps

formerly a stream). The Cent. Dict. assumes *sough* to be of Norse origin, but that cannot be, as we find it here in the form of *sow* before a Norseman set foot in the country.

Stafford. Is not mentioned in any existing A. S. charter; but it was an A. S. mint town, and early forms of the name have been preserved on coins. The museums at Stockholm and Copenhagen furnish the best examples, the Norsemen finding silver, then the only coinage, the most portable plunder. A. S. coins were small, between sixpence and a shilling in size, and, the lettering being rude, everything was abbreviated. At Stockholm is a coin of Eadgar, 958-75, bearing on the reverse *Stæth*; and there are also three coins of Ethelred, 979–1016, two bearing *Stæth*, and one *Stæ*; at Copenhagen there is an Ethelred marked *Stæth*, and a Canute, 1017–35, marked *Stæths*. All these coins undoubtedly refer to Stafford. In D. the forms are *Stadford* and *Statford*. In the Pipe Rolls for the 12 c. the name appears frequently as *Statford*, and occasionally *Stafford*. It is impossible to doubt that the original form was *Stæthford*. *Ford* (q. v.) means a ford, crossing of a stream, and Stafford is situate on the Sow, and within a mile of the Penk. A. S. *stæth*, *stathe*, means a bank, shore, or waterside. The word is frequently found in A. S. charters, e. g. 'on Tamese (Thames) *stæthe*'; 'from Afene (Avon) *stathe* to Shutsford;' 'from Use (Ouse) *stæthe* to Ealferths low,' &c.; in the N. and E. *staithe* is commonly applied to a river bank, quay, or wharf. It is used in the sense of a coal wharf in the Riot Damages Act, 1886. In Peacock's Glossary of Manley, &c., E. D. S., *staithe* is given as 'a landing-place; now frequently used to denote the foreshore of a river that is kept up by means of faggots or kids, or by timber or stonework.' There are places named Stathe, Stathes, Stathern, Staveley, and others with similar prefixes, which have probably the same root. It may be that Stafford was originally *Stæth*, 'the river side,' and that 'ford' was a later addition to describe its

situation, being on a great thoroughfare from London to Chester and the NW.

Standon, h., 4 m. N. of Eccleshall. D. *Stantone.* A. S. *stān, tūn*, stone town; probably because the original settlement was built of stone, A. S. houses being generally wooden structures. The terminals *ton* and *don* are frequently interchanged. *Stan-*, as a prefix, plays a prominent part in pl. names. D. records fifty *Stantone, Stantun*, and *Stantune*, nine *Standone* and *Standune*, nineteen *Stanford*, and about fifty other manors commencing *Stan-*. There are also sixteen commencing *Stain-*, all in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, showing how sharp and prevalent the influence of dialect was at the time of D. Mercia ended and Northumbria began at Dore, 5 m. SW. of Sheffield, and *Dore* means 'the door (of the two kingdoms).' N. of Dore pl. names have to be construed by Northumbrian dialect, and S. of it by Mercian.

Stanshope, h., 6½ m. NW. of Ashbourne. D. *Stanesope.* A. S. *stānes*, stones, and *hop*, a valley (*v.* Hope)—the stony valley.

Stanton, h., in Ellastone, 5 m. SW. of Ashbourne. D. *Stantone.* A. S. *stān-tūn*, stone town. *V.* Standon.

Stapenhill, h., 2 m. NW. of Stourbridge. 1342 *Stapenhull. Stapen-* is a corrupt form of A. S. *stapol*, a pole or pillar marking the boundary of a manor, estate, &c. The word is frequently met with in A. S. charters in describing properties. Stapenhill adjoins the border of the counties of Stafford and Worcester. The meaning is 'the hill of the stapol.' *V.* Bassetts Pole.

Statfold, h., 3 m. NE. of Tamworth. 13 c. *Stodwald, Statfeud, Stotfold.* The *w* in the first form is doubtless a mistake of a scribe for *f*, the A. S. *f* and *w* being much alike, and sometimes not distinguishable. A. S. *stōd* means a stud, a troop of horses, and *fald* a fold, or enclosure for them—the stud fold. Cf. Stodham, Studley (several), Stodmarsh, Studland.

Stewponey (The). The name of a large inn, 3 m. W. of Stourbridge, on the high-road from Wolverhampton to Worcester, via Himley, Kidderminster, and Ombersley. The road from Birmingham to Enville and Bridgnorth, via Halesowen and Stourbridge, crosses here, and is carried by a bridge over the Stour river close by the inn. The name is unique, and has puzzled everybody, Baring-Gould, in 'Gladys of the Stewponey,' (Lond. 1897), says: 'An old soldier in the wars of Queen Anne, a native of the place, settled there when her wars were over, and, as was customary with old soldiers, set up an inn near the bridge at the cross roads. He had been quartered at Estepona, in the S. of Spain, and thence he had brought a Spanish wife. Partly in honour of her, chiefly in reminiscence of his old military days, he entitled his inn "The Estepona Tavern." Hence Stewponey.'

Stitchbrook, an ancient moated homestead and estate, 1½ m. N. of Lichfield. D. *Tichebroc*; 13 c. *Sichelesbroc, Sichesbroc, Sticklesbrok, Stichelesbroc*; 14 c. *Stichbrok.* The terminal is, of course, A. S. *brōc*, a brook, and I think the D. form is the correct one. *Tica, Ticca,* was an A. S. p. n., appearing in compound, in A. S. charters, as *Ticce-* (Titch), e. g. *Ticceburne, Ticenheal, Ticcensfeld, Ticcesstede, Ticeswel,* &c. D. records eight manors commencing *Tice-* and *Tiche-.* The initial *S* is probably an addition arising from the accent upon the *T*, so that *tich* has become *stich* as *plash* has become *splash,* and *squench* is frequently used for *quench* (*v.* Skeat's Principles of English Etymology, 2nd S. 234). I therefore construe Stitchbrook as Ticc's (Titch's) brook. (No. The D. form cannot be taken as a basis against the evidence of the later forms, more especially as D. frequently represents initial *st* by *t* only. The original form would seem to have been *Sticceles-broc,* Stichel's brook. W. H. S.) I have no doubt Mr. Stevenson is right; but I have not met with 'Sticcel' as a p. n., though it is an A. S. form.

Stocking Lane, Stockings (The). These are somewhat plentiful names, found in the vicinity of mediaeval, or later, enclosures. 'Stocking' means the grubbing up or clearing of wood or wild land, formerly a common occupation. It is equivalent to 'Ridding' and 'Birch' (q. v.), and also to 'stubbing.' Our dictionaries treat the word in an unsatisfactory manner, and some as if it were 'provincial'; but it is good O. E. The H. E. D. will doubtless do justice to it.

Stoke-upon-Trent. D. *Stoche.* A. S. *stōc*, a place fenced in, equivalent to *tūn*, *burh* (*v.* Ton and Bury). D. records forty-three manors of the name. Soon after the Conquest most 'Stokes' assumed distinctive additions.

Stone. 13 c. *Stane*, *Stanes*, both frequently. A. S. *stān*, stone, *stānes*, stones. What 'stone,' or 'stones,' Stone took its name from we do not and probably never shall know.

Stoneywell, h., 3 m. NW. of Lichfield. 13 c. *Stoniwelle*; 14 c. *Stoniwalle*, *Stonywall*, *Stonywalle*. This is an example of interchange of the terminals *well* and *wall*. There is no doubt the right terminal is *well*. Shaw (Hist. of Staffs. i. 222) says it takes its name from a small round piece of water by the roadside between Stoneywell and Farewell, about a mile SE. of Farewell church, in the middle of which is a large boulder stone; and he adds: 'The common people have been superstitious about its being removed, imagining thereby that some injury would befall their cattle.'

Stonnall, h., 5 m. NE. of Walsall. 12 c. *Stanhale*, *Stonhale*. This, I think, is 'stone hall' (*v.* Standon and Hale). As *hale* is also a form of *healh*, meadow-land, it may mean Stony meadows, and Stonnall is stony.

Stour, river, tributary of Severn, is mentioned in several A. S. charters as *Stūr* or *Stūre* (long *u* = *ow*). There are six different rivers in England, all having similar early forms. Nothing can be made of it in A. S. It has been guessed as Welsh *ys dwr*, the water (but that is impossible, as *dwr* is a modern colloquial form of O. W. *dwfr*, which could only

appear in English as *dover* or *duver*. The Kentish Stour is recorded in the 7 c. as *Sturia*. The name occurs in Germany in the *Stör*, a northern affluent of the Elbe, the old form of which is recorded as *Sturia*. W. H. S.). The root doubtless lies in some archaic continental language.

Stourton, h., 3 m. W. of Stourbridge, on the river Stour. 1227 *Sturton*; 1255 *Sturton*. The town on the Stour. *V.* Stour and Ton.

Stow, nr. Lichfield. 1221 *Stowe*. **Stow,** nr. Weston-on-Trent. 13 c. *Stowe*. A. S. *stow*, an enclosed place.

Stramshall, h., 1½ m. NW. of Uttoxeter. D. *Stagrigesholle*; 13 c. *Strangricheshull, Strangeshull, Strangricheshall, Strongeshulf*; 14 c. *Strongeshull*. A. S. p. n. *Stranglic*, and A. S. *hyll*, M. E. *hull*—Stranglic's hill. The A. S. form would be *Strangliceshyll* (the *ce* being pr. *ch*), which accounts for the *ch* in the forms. The p. n. means strong, robust; in M. E. *strang* becomes *strong*, hence the change in the later forms. One can readily imagine the D. Norman scribe being 'staggered' by the name, and pitying us poor savages.

Strangleford Birch, h., 1½ m. W. of Brewood. 1327 *Strangleford*. It would seem that *Birch* is a later addition; it means 'a breaking up of wild land, a new enclosure' (*v.* Birchills). *Ford*, the crossing of a stream (*v.* Ford). *Strangle* (weed) is a provincial or dialectic word for the *Orobanche* and *Cuscuta*, also called choke-fitch, chokeweed, strangle-tare, and other homely names (E. P. N., 456). There is a stream here which may, at some time, have abounded with this weed.

Streethay, h., 2 m. N. of Lichfield. 1286 *Stretheye*; *Strethay*, frequently afterwards. The Icknield Street passes through the hamlet, and the meaning of the name is 'the hay, or enclosure, on the Street.' *V.* Stretton and Hay.

Streights (The), Sedgley, is a steep narrow road between Sedgley and Himley. I have no old forms of the name, but

think the modern form is correct, and conveys its own meaning. The word has no connexion with 'straight,' but is of M. E. origin, derived from O. F. *estreit*. It was spelt *strait* and *streight*, and means 'a narrow passage'; hence 'the *Straits* of Gibraltar,' 'the *Straits* of Dover,' &c. '*Strait* (i. e. narrow) is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life' (Matt. vii. 14).

Stretton, 2 m. N. of Brewood. D. *Estretone*; 13 c. *Stratton*. The initial *E* before Latin words commencing *St* is only a vowel sound, and may be discarded. This is A. S. *stræt* (from L. *strata*), M. E. *strete*, *strate*, a street, and *ton* (q. v.)—the town on the Street. Watling Street passes through the manor, and Stretton, it is said, is the site of the Roman station Pennocrucium; but I know of no evidence to support that opinion. The Anglo-Saxons generally applied the word *stræt* to a Roman way, but also frequently to other roads.

Stretton, 2 m. N. of Burton-on-Trent. 942 *Stretton*; 1004 *Strætton*; D. *Stratone*. The town on the Street. *V.* Stretton nr. Brewood. The Icknield Street passes through the manor.

Sugnall, 2½ m. NW. of Eccleshall. D. *Sotehelle*; 12 c. *Sogenhull*, frequently; 13 c. *Sugginhille*, *Sugginhull*, *Sogenhull*, *Suggenhale*. The D. scribe has blundered. *Sucga* was an A. S. p. n. (sometimes written *Suga*), and I read this as Sucga's hill. The A. S. form would be *Sucganhyll*, which accounts for the existing *n*. *Sucga* means a bird, but of what kind is doubtful. Some suggest titlark, others wagtail; Chaucer calls the hedge-sparrow 'the *heisugge*'; but it is much more likely the place was named after a man than a bird.

Swindon, h., 5 m. W. of Dudley. 12 c. *Swinedun*; 16 c. *Swyndon*. This, I suppose, must be taken as A. S. *swīn* and *dūn*—Swine's hill (*v.* Don). Swindon was in Kinver Forest and the pasturage of swine in a forest was an importan

privilege. *Swegen* (*g* = *y*) was an A. S. p. n. borrowed from the Danes, but, as we do not find it here before the beginning of the 11 c., I do not think it formed any element in pl. names. *Sigewine* ('wise friend,' shortened to *Siwine*) was an old A. S. name which would certainly become *Swine*. The prefix here may therefore represent that p. n.

Swineshead, h., 5 m. N. of Eccleshall. D. *Sueneshed*. The terminal is doubtless A. S. *heafod*, M. E. *heved*, *hed*, *head*, a head or end (of anything). I am doubtful whether the D. prefix represents A. S. *swīn*, swine, or a p. n. *V.* Swindon. Swineshead, in Lincolnshire, is *Swinesheafod* in A. S. charters.

Swinfen, 3 m. SE. of Lichfield. 12 c. *Swinfen*; 13 c. *Swinesfeud*, *Swynefen*, *Swynesfen*. *V.* Swindon. I think this means 'the swine's fen.' Swinfen is a large hollow tract of land, and must have been a swamp before the country was drained and enclosed, a very likely summer resort for the herds of swine the Anglo-Saxons are known to have possessed.

Swinnerton, 3 m. NW. of Stone. D. *Sulvertone*; 1205 *Silverton*; 1206 *Soulverton*; 13 c. *Swinnerton*, frequently, *Swinaferton*, *Swynefarton*, *Swinforton*; 14 c. *Swineforton*; 15 c. *Swynerton*. The D. and earlier forms are unquestionably A. S. *seolfor*, M. E. *selfer*, *selver*, *sulver*, *suelfer*, &c., silver, and *ton* (q. v.)—Silvertown; but the later and modern forms are extraordinary changes, arising, probably, from the varied manner of the M. E. spelling of 'silver.' Assuming this construction to be correct, the A. S. form would be *Seolfortūn*, and though I am not aware that the name is to be found in any A. S. charter, I should not doubt its A. S. origin. Silverton, Devon, is *Svlfretone* (*v* = *u*) in D., which clearly means Silvertown, and represents an A. S. *Seolfortūn*. *Seolfor* was not an A. S. p. n. (the family name 'Silver' is doubtless M. E.), though *Seulf*, a short form of

Sæwulf, was; but *that* would not yield any of the forms quoted. Why a Staffordshire manor should be called Silvertown it is hard to say, and not worth while to guess; but I feel sure it was so, though the corruptions are difficult to account for.

Swinscoe, h., 3½ m. NW. of Ashbourne. 13 c. *Swyneskow*, *Swiniscow*, *Swineschoch*. The terminal is interesting and excessively rare in Staffordshire, though plentiful in Lancashire and Yorkshire. It is Danish *skōv*, Sw. *skōg*, O. N. *skogr*, a wood. Hence, under Norse influence, the numerous terminals in the N., *-sceugh*, *-scough*, *-scow*. *Swīn* means swine, both in A. S. and O. N., and it is difficult to say whether the prefix represents swine, or a p. n. like *Swegen* (*g* = *y*) or *Siwine* (*v.* Swindon). The probability, I think, is that the name means 'the swine's wood.'

Syrescote, h., 3 m. NW. of Tamworth. 1100 *Siricescotan*; D. *Fricescote*; 12 c. *Sirescote*, *Sirichescote*. The D. *F* is doubtless a mistake of the scribe or copyist for *Si*. The first form is perfect A. S. for 'the cottages of Siric.' *Siric* and *Sigeric* are only variants of the same name (*Sigeric* being the old and correct form), meaning 'victorious.' *Cotan* is the plural of *cote*; the later forms drop into the singular.

Talk o' th' Hill, h., 5 m. W. of Newcastle. D. *Talc*; 13 c. *Talk*. This is W. *twlch*, a height, hill. The h. stands on a high ridge upon the great NW. road. The form is rare in England. Talkin, 3 m. SE. of Brampton in Cumberland, is probably an example, meaning 'little hill.' In I. and G. the form is *tulach* (pr. *tulla*), hence Tulla, Tullamore, Tullagh, Tullow, &c., in Ireland.

Tame, river, tributary of Trent. 13 c. *Thame*, *Tame*, *Teme*. It is easy to say this is A. S. *tam*, tame (the opposite of wild), and it is plausible also, because there is no other word known to us more acceptable. There is also no reason

to doubt that the Thames, the Teme, the Tame, the Tamar, have a common root, so that its meaning is interesting. Professor Skeat will not accept it as an A. S. form, and suggests that 'tame' would be an unlikely term to apply to a river; that the root is older than A. S., and probably irrecoverable. The Thames appears in A. S. charters as *Tæmese*, *Tamese*, *Temis*, and *Tame*, but those forms do not help us, and we must leave the meaning of Tame, Thames, and Teme to be yet discovered. It has been said, over and over again, to mean 'tame'; but, as Professor Skeat says, 'that proves nothing.' Canon Taylor writes: 'Thames is a Celtic word meaning the "tranquil" or "smooth" river.' Perhaps so; but what is the Celtic word, and where is it to be found? There is a river *Temes* in Hungary, giving name to Temesvar, and a river *Tamega* in Spain.

Tamhorn, h., 2 m. NW. of Tamworth. D. *Tamahore*; 12 c. *Tamenhorn*; 13 c. *Thamehorne*, *Tamenhorn*. D. blunders. *Tam-en-horn* is good A. S. for 'the horn of Tame.' The h. is situate on the river where it bends 'hornlike.' We say the 'horn' of a side saddle.

Tamworth. 10 c. *Tamaworthige*, *Tamanweorthe*, *Tamawearthige*, *Tamweorthe*, *Tamewurthe*, *Tomwurth*, *Tomanworthig*; D. *Tameworde*, *Tamworde*. Tamworth, having been a residence of the Mercian kings, is frequently mentioned in their charters. The terminal is the A. S. *worth* (q. v.), homestead, farm, estate. The prefix represents the river Tame (q. v.), on which Tamworth is situate, and the meaning is 'the farm or estate on the Tame.' The *n* in some of the forms is the gen. case. D. always writes *d* for a medial or final *th*.

Tatenhill, 2½ m. SW. of Burton. 771 *Tatenhyll*; 12 c. *Tatenhulle*; 14 c. *Tatenhull*. *Tāte* was an A. S. fem. p. n., and the forms are all correct for 'Tate's hill,' *n* being the gen. case. *Tata* was a mas. form of the name, and *Tat-* formed the prefix of a great number of p. names; it means

'joyous, cheerful'; hence *Tatwine*, joyous friend, *Tathelm*, joyous protector, *Tatwulf*, joyous wolf, *Tatmann*, cheerful man, &c.

Tean, h., in Checkley, 9 m. SE. of Stoke. D. *Tene*; 13 and 14 c. *Tene*, *Teyne*. Takes its name from the river Tean (q. v.), on which it is situate.

Tean, river, flows into the Dove nr. Uttoxeter. For forms *v.* Tean, h. This is a Brythonic name, as many of our rivers and hills are. We have the Teign and the Tane in Devon, the Tain in Scotland, the Tyne and the Team in the N., all probably from the same root. I think it is a form of W. *tain*, *taen*, *tan*, G. *taine*, I. *tain*, a spread or expanse (of water).

Teddesley, 2 m. NE. of Penkridge. 13 c. frequently *Teddesleg* (*g* = *y*), *Teddesleye*. Teddesley Hay was one of the hays of the forest of Cannock. *Tedd* is a short or pet form of some p. n. I have not met with any form before the 13 c., so that it is difficult to identify it with any known name. In a charter of 963 a place is named *Teodecesleage*, which Kemble (Index to Cod. Dip.) identifies with this Teddesley. But he is clearly wrong; the place referred to is, on the face of the charter, in Worcestershire, and I do not doubt is 'Tidsley Wood,' 1 m. W. of Pershore, which in Taylor's Map of Worcestershire, 1772, is marked 'Teddesley Wood'; so that it is probable that both places have the same root. But neither *Tedd* nor *Teodec* was an A. S. p. n., and I suggest that the name represented by both forms is *Theodric*, sometimes written *Tedric*, and that the original meaning was Theodric's lea (*v.* Ley). The contraction of p. names frequently perplexes etymologists. Torthelm, a bishop, sometimes writes himself Totta; Ordgar becomes Odda, and so on, men gradually adopting the short or pet names conferred upon them by their neighbours.

Tern, river, on the NE. boundary of Staffordshire against

Salop. 12 c. *Tirne*, *Tyrne* frequently, occasionally *Turne*. There is, I believe, no other river Tern. Nothing can be made of the forms in A. S., and I suggest the root is W. *ter*, clear, pure, and the *n* excrescent. An excrescent *n* frequently attaches at the end of a word, especially when it is of foreign origin; M. E. *bitor* (from O. F. *butor*) becomes in Mod. E. *bittern* (bird); M. E. *marter* (also from F.), later *martern*, becomes *marten*; *stubborn* was originally without the *n*. *V.* Tirley Castle.

Tettenhall, 2 m. NW. of Wolverhampton. A. S. Chronicle *Teotanheale*, *Totanheale*; D. *Totehala*; 12 c. *Totenhale*, *Tettenhale*, *Tettenhalle*; 13 c. *Tatenhale*, *Totenhale*, *Tetenhale*, frequently. The later forms point to the A. S. fem. p. n. *Tāte* or *Tetta*, and the terminal *hale* may be construed 'hall' or 'meadow-land' (*v.* Hale). I think the earlier forms are the most trustworthy, and that it is impossible to reject them. They appear in the A. S. Chronicle under the year 910, and are, to some extent, confirmed by D. and by two of the later forms. I read the prefix as being allied to the A. S. verb *totian*, M. E. *toten*, to project, stick out, hence 'put one's head out, look around, spy'; in M. E. *tote-hil* and *toot-hill* are rendered 'mount of observation.' The terminal *heale* is a form of *healh*, meadow-land (*v.* Hale), and I construe Tettenhall as meaning 'the look-out place by the meadow-land.' The village lies partly in fertile meadows on the Smestow, and partly on a loffy sandstone ridge which ascends abruptly, and commands an extensive view of the country for miles around. On the plain at the foot, in 910, a battle was fought between the Saxons and the Danes, which in the Chronicles is called the battle of *Totanheale*, though it was actually waged about a mile N. of Wolverhampton. It may be that Tettenhall takes its name from having been a 'watch-tower' on this occasion; but it is probable that the name is more ancient, and that it was a common post of observation in time of war. Totley (D. *Totingelei*), 6 m. S. of Sheffield, occupies

a commanding situation on the ancient frontier of Mercia and Northumbria. I read that as 'the look-out lea.' Professor Skeat writes (History of Tettenhall, 8): 'If we take the words (forms) as they stand (A. S. *Totanhale*, D. spelling *Totehala*), then A. S. *totan heall* means "tout's corner," i. e. a corner or convenient spy-place whence a spy looks out. *Totan* should be *Tōtan* with long *o*, and is the gen. case of *Tōta*, a spy or look-out man, Mod. E. 'tout' for custom. It means the hall or dwelling on a look-out hill. We should call it Spy Hall if we had to make up the word nowadays.' But some one has supplied Mr. Skeat with a wrong A. S. terminal; it is not *hale* (a form of both *heall* and *healh*), but *heale*, which is a form only of *healh*, meadow-land. *V.* Tutbury and Ipstones. ('*Teot* cannot be connected with *tōtian*. It is a p. n.; cf. Tetsworth.' W. H. S.) The verb 'to tote' is used by many M. E. writers in the sense 'to watch, to look out' (Way's Prompt. Parv., 499, *s.* 'Tute hylle').

Thickbroom, h., 3 m. SE. of Lichfield. 13 c. *Thykebrom*, *Tykebrom*, *Thikebrom*, *Thikebrom*. A. S. *thicce-brōm*, M. E. *thike-brōm*, thick broom, *Cytisus* (*Genesta*) *scoparius*. The country around was formerly heath-land.

Thorpe Constantine, 5 m. NE. of Tamworth. D. *Torp*; 13 c. *Thorp Constantin*. Constantine was the name of its lords in the 13 c. They were a Norman family, and Earls of Breteville, Pacey, 'Constantine,' and other places in Normandy. *Thorp, throp*, is an A. S. word meaning a village; but the Anglo-Saxons probably borrowed the word from the Norsemen, with whom it was common. 'Thorpes' are numerous in the N. and E., where Scandinavian influence prevailed. In the SW. the word is unknown. The church is dedicated to St. Constantine, probably out of compliment to the early lords. There is no mention of a church (or priest) here in D., and the church was probably built by the Constantines.

Throwley, h., 1½ m. NW. of Ilam. 13 c. *Truleg*. The

terminal is clearly 'ley,' pasture, untilled land (*v.* Ley). Putting the old and modern forms together I do not doubt the prefix is A. S. *thruh*, M. E. *throwe*, a sarcophagus, tomb. There are many tumuli in the locality, and probably a stone coffin is the origin of the name. In later times a 'through-stone' came to mean a grave-stone, and Sir Walter Scott (Antiquary, chaps. xvi, xxiii) uses the word in that sense. For authorities *v.* Cath. Angl., E. E. T. S., *s.* 'Thrughe,' and Jamieson's Scottish Dict. *s.* 'Thruch-stane.' Cf. Throwleigh in Devon, Throwley in Kent. *Thrūbroc* and *Thrūhham* are pl. names found in A.S. charters.

Thursfield, now **New Chapel,** 1½ m. N. of Newcastle. I believe the name is obsolete; but as it was a D. manor, and identified with a family of Thursfield, well known in Staffordshire and Salop, I think it worthy of notice. D. *Turvoldesfeld*; 13 c. *Thurfredesfeld, Torvedeston, Turvedestone.* The prefix is the A. S. p. n. *Thurweald,* which appears also as *Thurwold, Turold,* and *Thorold. Thur, Thor,* was the Saxon Jupiter, and *weald* means power, control. It is not uncommon in early forms for the terminals to vary, as they do here, between *tūn* and *feld.* As *feld* has survived I give it the preference and read the name 'Thurweald's field' (*v.* Field). The Anglo-Saxons probably borrowed the name from O. N. *Thorvaldr*; the form *Thurfredesfeld* looks like the O. N. fem. name *Thorfritha.*

Tillington, adjoining Stafford on the N. D. *Tillintone. Tila* was an A. S. p. n., of which the gen. form would be *Tilan,* giving *Tilantūn*—Tilla's town. Till is now a family name. Exs.: Tillington, Sussex; Tillington, Herefordshire; Tillingham, Essex. I have before explained the tendency of the gen. *an* to become *ing.*

Tipton. D. *Tibintone*; 13 c. *Tibinton, Tybeton. Tiba, Tibbe,* was an A. S. fem. p. n. St. Tibbe or Tybba was the patroness of hunting and hawking. 'When any noblemen have lost their hawkes,' writes John Rouse, of Warwick, 'or

cannot tame them, it is the custom to send waxen models to the virgin St. Tybba, and they soon obtain their wish.' I do not suggest that Tipton is named after St. Tibbe, but it is possible. She died in 696, and Tipton, black as it is now, was once a hunting country. Places are often named after saints. We have *Tibberton* in Gloucestershire, another in Salop, another nr. Worcester, and another nr. Hereford, *Tibenham* nr. Norwich, *Tibthorpe* in Yorkshire, *Tibshelf* in Derbyshire, and a *Tipton* in Devon.

Tirley Castle, h., on Tern river, adjoining Market Drayton. D. *Tirelire*, *Tyrle*, *Tyrlegh*, *Tireleye*. *V.* Tern. Here the terminal has conserved the old river name without the excrescent *n*, and we have 'the pasture on the Ter.'

Tittensor, h., 3½ m. NW. of Stone. D. *Titesoure*; 12 c. *Titesoura* (*u*=*v*), *Titnesovre*; 13 c. *Titneshovere*. The terminal is A. S. *ōfer*, *ōfre* (later *ora*), a border, margin. The prefix is certainly a p. n.; I should say *Tita* (pr. *titta*), but the gen. would be *Titan*, yielding *Titanofre* (or *ora*). I cannot account for the persistent *s* after *n* (a double gen.). The name may have been *Tidwine*, passing into *Tiden* and *Titin*; we should then get *Titenesofre*, meaning Tidwine's border, i.e. the boundary of his manor or land; the exact name is uncertain. *V.* Tittesworth.

Tittesworth, h., nr. Leek. 13 c. *Tettesworth*, *Tetesworth*. Here we are free from the embarrassing *n* of Tittensor (q. v.). *Tete*, *Tetta*, *Tette*, was an A. S. fem. p. n., and this is clearly Tette's worth—farm or estate (*v.* Worth). Exs.: Tetsworth nr. Oxford; Tetworth, Hunts; Tetton, Cheshire; Tatton, Cheshire; Tatworth, Somersetshire. *Tāte*, *Tete*, *Tetta*, *Tette*, are considered to be pet names. (This is not a fem. p. n. on account of the gen. *es*. It is mas. *Teot*—Teot's worth. W. H. S.)

Tixall, 4 m. SE. of Stafford. D. *Ticheshale* (*ch* = *k*); 12 c. *Tichesale*, *Tikeshale*. *Ticce* (pr. *tich*) was an A. S. p. n., probably a short form of *ticcen*, a kid. Titchbourn, Hants,

was *Ticceburn*—Ticce's brook; Ticknall, Derby, was *Ticcenheal*—Ticce's meadow-land; Titchfield, Hants, was *Ticcenesfeld* (here the name was *Ticcen* followed by the gen. *es*)—Ticcen's field. The name abounds in A. S. charters and in D. D. always spells it *Tiche*, but it has occasionally become *Tick* and *Tix*. The meaning here is Ticce's hall (*v.* Hale).

Tor, a local name in NE. Staffordshire, and plentiful in the adjoining parts of Derbyshire, meaning a high or sharp rock. It is rare in the Midlands, probably because rocks are very scanty, but is common in Devonshire. It is an A. S. word, also found in O. W. and I., and is our modern 'tower,' used in a somewhat different sense.

Totmanslow, h., 2 m. SW. of Cheadle. **Totmanslow,** Staffordshire hundred. D. *Tatemaneslau, Tateslaw*; 13 c. *Tatmondeslow, Tatemanlawe. Tatmann* was an A. S. p. n., meaning cheerful or joyous man; but the meaning of the pl. name is Tatmann's low (burial-mound) (*v.* Low).

Trent, river. 7 c. (Beda) *Treonta*; 10 c. *Trent*; A. S. Chronicle *Trent*; D. *Trent*; 13 c. *Trent.* In the Academy for April 28, 1883, Mr. Henry Bradley identifies Ptolemy's river *Trisanton* with the river Arun, co. Sussex, the older name of which was the *Tarent*; and he suggests that another British *Trisantona* is referred to in Tacitus, Annals, xii. c. 31, in the corrupt passage 'cunctosque castris Antonam et Sabrinàm fluvios,' which he emends to *cis Trisantonam*, and identifies with the Trent. In Celtic a consonant between vowels always disappears, so that from *Trisantona* would arise *Triantona.* In A. S. this would produce *Treonte*, gen. *Treontan*, which is actually the A. S. name of the Trent. Mr. Bradley does not make any reference to the meaning of *Trisantona.* Treated as a Latin word *Trisantonam* can only be translated 'Three Santoni,' or 'Thrice Santonian,' the Santoni being a Gaulish tribe settled in what is now the Department of Charente-Inférieure. How that name can

be applicable to the Trent it is difficult to imagine. The name, however, is probably not Latin, but an Old Celtic form, and I think the root of *Trent* lies in some archaic language, and its meaning has yet to be discovered.

Trentham, 5 m. NW. of Stone. D. *Trenham*; 12 c. *Trentham*, frequently. Being situate on the Trent it takes its name from the river (q. v.)—the home on the Trent (*v.* Ham).

Trescot, h., **Trescot Grange,** 4 m. SW. of Wolverhampton. 1006 *Treselcote.* *V.* Trysull.

Tromelowe, farm, commonly called Rumbelows, in Wednesfield parish, 1½ m. N. of Wolverhampton. 13 c. *Tromelowe*; 14 c. *in the field of Thromelowe*; 15 c. *Romylow*; 16 c. *le Thromylowes.* In 910 a battle was fought at Wednesfield between the Saxons and the Danes, in which the Saxons gained the victory (A. S. Chronicle). Formerly there were many burial-mounds around called Horselow, Ablow, Northlow, Southlow, the Low, the Little Low, Thrombelow, and others, the names of which have been lost. I suggest that the root is A. S. *truma*, M. E. *trume*, *trome*, a legion, troop, army, host, and *hlæw*, M. E. *lowe*, a burial-mound (*v.* Low)—the burial-mound of the army or host. There was a Warwickshire D. hundred (obsolete) named *Tremelau.* (More likely from the p. n. *Truma*, an unrecorded but regular form of a name beginning with *Trum*, 'strong' (*trum* means 'squadron, battalion,' not an army, and is unlikely to occur in local names). Rumbelow is probably from 'at Trumelowe.' W. H. S.)

Trysull, 5 m. SW. of Wolverhampton. 984 and 1006 *Tresel*; D. *Treslei*; 12 c. *Tresel.* The name is pr. 'Treezle.' I suggest the root is W. *trestl*, a trestle (from O. E. W. H. S.). The word is not 'admitted' to be A. S.; but it must have been, because, besides being in W., it is found in M. E. as *trestel*, *trestlis* (plural), and *trestes.* 1½ m. N. of Trysull is Trescot (q. v.), anciently *Treselcote*—the trestle

cot; probably because the cot was built trestle fashion. There may have been some connexion between the two places as the root is certainly the same. Places are often named from some dwelling out of the common. Early household tables commonly consisted of boards laid on movable 'trestles.' There is no other Trysull in England.

Tunstal, h., in Adbaston. D. *Tunestal.* **Tunstall** (Potteries). 1322 *Tunstal,* later *Dunstal.* **Tunstall,** h., 1½ m. NW. of Wolverhampton. 1327 *Tunstal. V.* Dunstall.

Tutbury. D. *Toteberie*; 12 c. *Stuteberie,* frequently, *Tuttebury, Tutebiri*; 13 c. *Tuttesbiri, Tutesbury.* The *S* in *Stuteberie* is excrescent, a not uncommon addition to an intensive prefix, e. g. *s-queeze,* from A. S. *cwēsan,* to crush (*v.* Skeat's Principles of Etymology, 1st S. 381). It may therefore be rejected. Tutbury Castle lies close to the church and town, on a lofty mount commanding a wide prospect over the valley of the Dove, and stands upon the boundary of Staffordshire and Derbyshire, which, in remote times, were probably under separate rulers, occasionally at war. I think the meaning of the name is 'the look-out, or watch, town' (*v.* Tettenhall). (No. The forms have gen. *es.* It is from a p. n. *Tutt* (cf. *Tutta,* which is recorded)—'Tutt's burgh.' W. H. S.) But the earlier forms are without *es.*

Underhill, ancient estate in Bushbury, 3 m. N. of Wolverhampton. 1327 *Thomas-under-the-hull, Richard Underhull*; 1369 *Thomas Undurhulle.* The homestead lies at the foot of Bushbury Hill—M. E. *hull.* The Underhills held the estate till about 1617, when Sir Hercules Underhill sold it. It has given name to a large and well-known South Staffordshire family.

Uttoxeter. D. *Wotocheshede*; 12 c. *Uttockeshedere, Utukeshere*; 13 c. *Huttokeshagh, Ottokeshather, Hottokesacre* in conjunction with *Ottokeshather*; 14 c. *Utloxatre, Uttoxhather, Uttoxeshather, Uttockcester, Utcheter*; 16 c. *Utcester, Utseter,*

Uttecester. The D. terminal *hede* must be read *hethe*, the *d* representing, as usual in D., an A. S. *th*. It is A. S. *hāth*, M. E. *hather*, *hadder*, *hether*, heath. The mediaeval terminals all point to this. The *cester*, in some of the later terminals, is probably a fancy of antiquarian scribes, as Uttoxeter never had a castle, nor was it a Roman town. The gen. *es* in the early forms points to a p. n. which I take to be *Hwittuc*. There was no *Wotoch*. *Whuttuc*, or *Uttoc*. (The *c* of the terminal *acre* (13 c. form) must be read *t*, *c* and *t* being often indistinguishable. W. H. S.) I have no doubt that the meaning of the name is 'Hwittuc's heath.' Initial *h* before *w* began to drop off or follow the *w* before the Conquest. Uttoxeter was on the border of Needwood Forest, and *heath* would be a likely terminal. D. has no other prefix *Wotoch-*; but it has a *Witoch-*, which probably also represents *Hwittuc* (modern surname Whittuck and Whittock. W. H. S.).

Walk Mill, 1½ m. S. of Cannock. Always *Walk Mill*. This is a common name, especially in the N. It is from A. S. *wealcere*, M. E. *walker*, a fuller of cloth, from the verb *weolc*, M. E. *walke*, to walk. Hence the p. names Walker and Fuller. All 'Walk' Mills have been, at some period, cloth or fulling mills.

Wall, 2 m. SW. of Lichfield. 12 c. *Walle*; 13 c. *Wall*, *le Wal*, *le Walle*. This is A. S. *weall*, M. E. *wal*, *walle*, a rampart of earth, or wall of stone. Wall is on Watling Street, and on the site of the Roman city of Etocetum. The foundations of Roman walls are still visible. There is a village 'Wall,' in Northumberland, close to the Roman Wall, and a h. 'Wall,' 1 m. SW. of Leek, which in the 13 c. was 'Wal,' and belonged to the Priory of Trentham. Mr. Henry Bradley writes in the Academy for Oct. 30, 1886, and Nov. 9, 1889, that the Roman name of Wall was *Letocetum* (not Etocetum), a corrupt or latinized form, as he suggests, of O. W. *Luitcoet* (Mod. W. *Llwydcoed*), 'city of the grey wood';

and he transfers the name to Lichfield, two miles off, but fails to prove identity, and the evidence he adduces clearly points to some place in Wales.

Wall Heath, h., in Kingswinford, 5 m. W. of Dudley. 1330 *Kingswallhuth* (*huth* = *hethe*). Wall Heath in the year 1300 was on the bounds of Kinver Forest. A mile SW. are ancient earthworks, frequently called 'walls.' *V.* Wall. There is a very large entrenched fort called 'The Walls,' 7 m. W. of Wolverhampton.

Walsall. 1004 *Walesho*; later, same c., *Waleshale*; not in D.; 12 and 13 c. *Walessale, Walsale, Waleshale.* The terminal *hō*, in A. S., means a hill, a projecting ridge, which is appropriate to the situation of the church and ancient part of the town. Some time in the 11 c. the terminal changed to *hale* (q. v.). *Wales* is the gen. of Mercian *walh*, West-Saxon *wealh*, a Welshman, and Walsall may be translated 'the hall of the Welshman, or stranger'; but *Wales* was also a p. n., as it is a family name now; it is more likely that we ought to read it 'Wales' hall.' In the latter half of the 8 c. 'Wales prefectus' witnesses charters relating to the abbey at Worcester. *Prefectus* means a reeve, or person in authority, and possibly he may have founded the first church here. Many places owe their names to early benefactors. D. records thirteen manors commencing *Wales-*.

Walton, h., in Stone (½ m. S. of). 942 *Waletune*; D. *Waletone*; 13 c. *Waleton.* There are over fifty *Waltons* in England, besides many other places commencing *Wal-*, such as Walworth, Walstead, Walwick, &c. D. records twenty-three *Waletone*, fourteen *Waltone*, nine *Waltune* or *Waltun*, thirteen *Walecote*, three *Wales*, seven *Walesbi*, and one *Walestun.* Walton is a difficult name to construe, as *wale* was a form of A. S. *walh, wealh*, a stranger, foreigner, and also a p. n., and *wal* was a form of *weall*, a wall, rampart, bank of earth or stone; so that different Waltons may have different meanings, and we can only be guided by early

forms or local knowledge. Where the possessive *s* is found in the forms (it rarely is) we may assume the p. n.; but *Waletone* I should construe as 'the walled town,' meaning an enclosure surrounded by a bank and ditch (field-like). Occasionally the name might arise from the existence of Roman remains, or from an ancient entrenchment, dyke, or sea-wall.

Walton, h., 2 m. SE. of Eccleshall. D. *Waletone.* **Walton,** h., in Gnosall. D. *Waletone.* **Walton,** h., in Baswich. D. *Waletone.* *V.* Walton nr. Stone.

Warslow, h., in Alstonefield, 8 m. N. of Leek. D. *Weres-lie*; 1300 *Werselow.* I assume the terminal to be *low* (q. v.), a burial-mound, as the mediaeval and modern forms agree, and there are tumuli hereabout. I think the prefix represents the p. n. *Wær*, or possibly a short form of some name of which it formed a stem, e. g. *Wærbald*, *Wærburg*, *Wærfrith*, &c. I read it 'Wær's burial-mound.' The A. S. form should be *Wæres-*, which D., never using diphthongs, would write *Weres-*.

Warton, h., 3 m. NE. of Newport. 1272 *Wavertune.* Though only one form, and that rather late, we may safely accept it. The change from *Waver-* to *War-* is regular. Warton, nr. Polesworth in Warwickshire, is *Wavre* in D, having subsequently acquired the *-ton*. Woore in Salop is also *Wavre* in D. Wavertree in Lancashire has preserved its form, but is pr. 'Wartree.' Waverton in Cheshire (D. *Wavreton*) has also maintained its form. The difficulty is the meaning of *Waver*. There are three places named *Wavre* in Belgium, a *Wawre* in Poland, and a *Wavre* in Switzerland. (It is O. E. *wæfer*—meaning unknown. W. H. S.) PS. It has been suggested that *Wavre* means the aspen poplar (*Populus tremula*), from its waving or wavering habit, and I think it extremely likely, though unable to give any authority. Trees left in the felling of a thick wood are called 'wavers.' The A. S. form would be *wæfer*, *wæfre*. The dictionaries give

no such meaning to the word, but they are all imperfect. Professor Skeat favours the suggested construction.

Warstone, h., in Hilton, 3 m. S. of Cannock. 994 *Hārstān*; 1300 *Horeston*. Warstone is a common name for hamlets, and always found to have been originally *Hārstān*. The change to *War-* appears to have commenced in the 16 c. The meaning of *Hār* in A. S. is recorded as 'grey, hoary, old'; but it is clear from the use of the word in A. S. charters that, whatever its original meaning was, it came to mean, at an early period, 'boundary,' and consequently all 'War-stones,' 'Hoar-stones,' and 'Whore-stones' will be found to be on ancient boundaries. There are several huge boulders at Warstone, one of which is the boundary stone between Hilton and Essington. (PS. The H. E. D. is the first great authority to recognize 'Hoar,' in pl. names, as meaning 'boundary.') *V.* Harborne.

Water Eaton, *v.* Eaton (Water).

Waterfall, 8 m. SE. of Leek. 13 and 14 c. *Waterfale*. This is one of many places which owe their name to the eccentricity of the river Hamps (one of the head waters of the Dove), which, near the village, after flowing eight miles, disappears into the limestone. *V.* Dove, and Hamps. There is no other 'waterfall' here.

Watford Gap, h., 1½ m. S. of Shenstone, is situate on cross-roads, an ancient way called Blake Street (q. v.) here cutting the Birmingham and Lichfield road at right angles. Immediately below the intersection Blake Street crosses a stream. *Gap* is a M. E. word, apparently derived from O. N., and means 'a breach in the continuity of anything,' e. g. a hedge, wall, road. It is consequently applied to cross-roads, and in the N. to the road itself, e. g. Scarfe Gap, Raise Gap, Hunter's Gap. Watford is a difficult name to construe. The terminal is plain 'ford' (q. v.), but *Wat* has no meaning in A. S., and is certainly a corrupt form, though Watford in Berks. appears as *Watford* in a charter of 994. Watford in

Northamptonshire is recorded in D. as *Watford* and *Wadford*. I think the probability is that *Wat-* represents the p. n. *Wada*, which in gen. form would give *Wadanford*, Wada's ford. This would certainly become *Wadford* or *Watford* (*d* and *t* being often interchanged).

Watling Street. The A. S. forms are *Wætlinga-stræte* and *Wætling-strete*. Occasionally it is found as *Wæclinga-*, but the *c* is a mistake in the reading or copying for *t*, those letters in A. S. being frequently indistinguishable. In M. E. the forms are *Watlinge-*, *Waltelinge-*, and *Watlinga-* (strete). I assume the correct form to be *Wætlinga-stræt* (gen. pl.), and the translation is clearly 'the way of the Wætlingas, or sons of Wætla.' Florence of Worcester and Roger of Hoveden, who wrote in the 12 c., and were doubtless thorough A. S. scholars, both write, under the year 1013, of Watling Street as 'the road which the sons of King Weatla made across England from the eastern to the western sea.' That Wætla was a 'king' is obviously no part of the translation, but mere imagination of the writers, as no 'King' Wætla ever reigned here, or elsewhere as far as we know. Apparently the Romans gave no distinctive names to any of their roads. *Watling*, *Icenhilde*, *Fosse*, and *Ermine* streets, the names of the principal Roman ways, are clearly of A. S. origin. An important element for consideration is the fact that the name 'Watling Street' is borne not only by the great road from Dover to Wroxeter nr. Shrewsbury, but by other Roman roads. In all published A. S. charters 'Watling Street' clearly refers to the road between Dover and Wroxeter; but northern charters are extremely rare. I believe that the *Wætlinga stræt* mentioned in the treaty between Alfred and Guthrum is not the Watling Street now dealt with, but the Roman way at Huntingdon now called Ermine Street, and that the treaty must be read not *up on Usan*, 'upwards on the Ouse,' but 'upon the Ouse,' i. e. down stream. The Ouse, upwards, would be an

improbable boundary, eating by tortuous courses into the very heart of Mercia, whilst down stream it would form a good one, and a sensible Danelagh. That treaty is only known to us by late fragmentary copies, and its verbiage cannot be trusted. We have no direct evidence as to the A. S. name of the Northern Watling Street, but the Boldon Book of Durham (through which county that road passes) in 1183 records a tenant as *Watlingus* (the latinized form of Watling), which shows that the name was then known in the county. Leland in his Itinerary (circa 1538) says (i. 30): 'Ancaster' (8 m. N. of Grantham on what is now called Ermine Street) 'stondith on *Wateling*, as in the highway to Lincoln.' At p. 35 he calls the Roman way from Lincoln to Doncaster *Watheling Streat*; it is now Tilbridge Lane. At p. 46 he writes: 'Wateling Streate lyith straite over Castleford bridge. . . . I never saw yn any parte of England so manifest tokens as heere of the large high crest of the way of *Watelinge Streate* made by hand. . . . Aberford is a poore thoroughfare on *Wateling Streate*.' At p. 101 he says: 'The Toune (Boroughbridge) is but a bare thing; it stondith on *Watelinge Streate*.' At p. 105 he speaks of Wetherby and Brotherton as being on *Watheling Streat*; and (viii. 69 b) he gives the way and distances on *Watlyngestrete* from Boroughbridge to Carlisle, via Catterick, Leeming, Greta, Bowes, Stanmore, Appleby, and Penrith. He nowhere recognizes 'Ermine' Street. Now the road is marked on the Ordnance map, in parts, 'Ermine Street,' 'Roman road,' and 'Watling Street.' Lambard (Description of England and Wales), circa 1570, says: 'The way toward Yorke, lyinge beyond Stylton, is at this day called Watlingstrete of the common people.' Norden (Speculum Britanniae, 1595, ed. 1723, p. 3), under Hertfordshire, calls the present Ermine Street on its way through the hundred of Oddesey, S. of Royston, 'Old Watline Street.' In Speed's Map of Huntingdonshire, 1610, the street S. of Castor, 5 m.

W. of Peterborough, is marked 'Ermin Street'; but northwards 'the Roman way called Watling Street, or Forty-foot way.' Stukeley in his Itinerary, circa 1723, calls the same road, S. of York, 'Hermen Street,' and he says (p. 111) the name Watling Street 'became almost the common appellative of such Roman roads.' Speed's Map of Hunts, 1610, marks the passage of the Nen at Wansford, 6 m. S. of Stamford on the Great North Road, as 'Watlingford,' and so does Blome's Map of Hunts, 1673. Horsley (Brit. Rom.), circa 1730, says: 'The country people near Wroxeter in Shropshire give the name of Watling Street to the military way which goes through the middle of that county . . . toward Kenchester. . . . The same name is also given (as far as I could learn) to all the military ways in Scotland. The vulgar call the military way from Cataract Bridge to Carlisle, through Westmoreland and Cumberland, Mitchell (Michael) Scott's Causeway; as they do also that which is called Watling Street in the county of Durham.' In Armstrong's Map of Northumberland, 1769 (from actual survey), the Roman way between Ebchester, Corbridge, and the Roman Wall, is marked 'Watling Street,' and that portion running NW. from the Wall into Roxburghshire, also 'Watling Street.' A great Roman way running almost due N. and S. through Northumberland, passing 2½ m. E. of Wooler and the same distance W. of Berwick, is marked 'Watling Street or Devil's Causeway.' D., under Norfolk, records a manor, *Watlingseta* in the half hundred of *Dice* (Diss). This I take to mean 'Watling folk.' I cannot identify this manor; but it is curious that a Roman way (apparently to Norwich) passes two miles E. of Diss. Watlington in Oxfordshire, 6 m. NE of Wallingford, in A. S. charters appears as *Wæclinctune*, *Hwætlinga tune*, *Wætlinctune*, *Wætlingtune*, and in D. as *Watelintone*. It lies upon an Icknield Street, which I take to be pre-Roman, leading apparently from Avebury, in Wiltshire, into NE. Norfolk, the country of the Iceni. It is, fo

long distances together, a most impressive highway, and a thousand years ago was probably more so. There is a Watlington in Norfolk, 6 m. S. of King's Lynn, which I cannot trace in D., or the Liber Eliensis, or any early charter. It lies on a road not identified as Roman. Watlington in Sussex, 2 m. NE. of Battle, D. *Watlingtone*, lies between two roads 1½ m. apart, not supposed to be Roman, but undoubtedly ancient. D. also records a *Watelintune*, in Berks., which I cannot identify. I think it may be taken as proved that 'Watling Street' is a generic name, and means 'the way of the sons of Wætla.' (*Inga* in the forms is the gen. pl. of *ing*, 'sons or descendants of,' equivalent to the Scotch 'Mac,' and Irish 'O.') But who was Wætla? We have no record of him. We know, however, that the Milky Way is, by old writers, frequently called *Watling Street*. Chaucer says:

> 'Now, quod he thoo, cast up thine eye,
> See yonder loo, the *galoxie*,
> Which men clepeth the milky weye,
> For it is white: and some parfeye,
> Callen hyt *Watlyng strete*.'

The Complaint of Scotland, a Scottish work, 1549 (E. E. T. S. 58), speaks of the Milky Way as being called by mariners *Vatlant* (Watling) *streit*, and Douglas' Virgil, 85, again terms the Milky Way *Watlingstrete*. Many nations have associated the Milky Way with the idea of a road. The Welsh know it as *Hynt St. Ialm*, St. James' way, and *Lwybr-y-gwynt* and *Heol-y-gwynt*, the path or way of the wind. The Italians named it 'the holy street to Loretto,' the Spaniards 'the road to St. Iago,' and Mahommedans 'the Hadji's way.' I suggest that *Wætla* is the name of some unrecorded mythical hero of the Saxons before their arrival here; that the Milky Way was then known to them as 'Watling Street,' and they transferred the name to the great roads which they must have regarded with astonishment.

Horsley, who travelled much upon the Roman roads in the beginning of the 18 c., frequently speaks of their 'grand' and 'magnificent' appearance 'for miles together.' This Watling Street, where it has not been contracted or modernized—say between Weedon and High Cross—is still a most noble and impressive work. It is common to all nations to attribute works or natural objects incomprehensible to them to their gods, heroes, or other supernatural agency. A cromlech on the Icknield Street in Berkshire, now commonly called 'Wayland Smith's Cave,' appears as 'Welandes smithy' in an A. S. charter, Weland being the Teutonic Vulcan. The mysterious ditch Wansdyke (A. S. *Wodnesdīc*) is so named after their deity Woden. Grim's Dyke, Grim's Ditch, Grimspound, probably have their root in A. S. *grima*, a spectre, goblin. The Ermine Street, I think, is so named after Eorman, the celebrated King of the Ostrogoths. Later generations have conferred on similar objects such names as the Giant's Causeway, the Devil's Causeway, the Devil's Highway (both Roman roads), the Devil's Arrows, the Devil's Bellows, the Devil's Bridge, the Devil's Punchbowl, &c. Part of the constellation Ursa Major was known by the Saxons in heathen times as 'Woden's way,' and subsequently as *Carles-wægen*, Charles' Wain (wagon), after Charles the Great (Charlemagne).

Since writing this I find that Jacob Grimm (Teutonic Mythology, translated by Stallybrass) arrived at the same conclusion. He writes (i. 356–7): 'Now it is not unimportant that one of the highways, Wætlinga Stræt, is at the same time translated to the sky, and gets to look quite mythical. A plain enough road . . . is the Milky Way in the heavens, i. e. it is travelled by the car of some heathen god. . . . Wætlinga is plainly a genitive plural; who the Wætlings were, and how they came to give their name to an earthly and a heavenly street, we do not know. . . . Among other nations also fancy and fable have let the names of earthly

and heavenly roads run into one another.' Rydberg (Teutonic Mythology, Anderson's translation, 647) writes: 'The Watlings, after whom the Milky Way is named, are descendants of Vate-Vada, Volund's father.' At 667 he says: 'The name Irung, Iring, as a synonym of Gjuke, is of importance from a mythological point of view. Widukind of Corvei (about the year 950) tells us in ch. 13 of his Saxon Chronicle that the Milky Way is designated by Iring's name even to this day. Just previously he had mentioned a Saxon warrior by this name, whom he believes to have been the cause of this appellation. . . . According to A. S. glossaries, the Milky Way is called "Iringes weg." With this we should compare the statements made above, that the Milky Way among the Teutonic population of England was called the way of the Watlings (that is, the descendants of Vate, i. e. Ivalde). Both statements harmonize. In the one it is the descendants of Ivalde in general, in the other it is Slagfin-Iring whose name is connected with the Milky Way. Thus Slagfin, like Volund and Orvandel-Egil, was a star-hero.' At 670 he writes: 'Gjuke and Hjuke are therefore names borne by one and the same person, by Slagfin the Niflung, who is the progenitor of the Gjukungo. They also look like analogous formations from different roots. This also gives us the explanation of the name of the Asgard bridge, Bilröst, "Bil's way." The Milky Way is Bil-Idun's way, just as it is her brother Hjuke's; for we have already seen that the Milky Way is called Irung's way, and that Irung is a synonym of Slagfin-Gjuke. Bil travelled the shining way when she was taken up to Asgard as an asynje. Slagfin travelled it as Balder's and Hoder's foster-brother. If we now add that the same way was travelled by Svipdag when he sought and found Freyja in Asgard, and by Thjasse-Volund's daughter, Skade, when she demanded from the gods a ransom for the slaying of her father, then we find here no less than four descendants of Ivalde who have travelled

over the Milky Way to Asgard; and as Volund's father among his numerous names also bore that of Vate-Vada, then this explains how the Milky Way came to be called Watling Street in the Old English literature, and thus Vigfusson's opinion that the Asgard bridge is identical with the Milky Way is correct.' Rydberg's *Vate-Vada*, or *Ivalde*, and *Wætla* are synonyms, and Slagfin-Irung, Volund or Wēland, and Orvandel-Egil were his sons; hence by legend and saga their names were associated with the Milky Way, and, transferred from Norse to Saxon, crossed to England, and took root here both in heavenly and earthly 'ways.'

Wednesbury. A.S. Chronicle *Wodnesbeorge*, *Wodnesbeorh*, *Wodnesbyri*; D. *Wadnesberie*; 12 c. *Wodnesbyrg*, *Wodenesbeorh*, *Wodnesberi*, *Wodnesbeorh*, *that is Woden's Mount*. This is the p. n. *Woden* (gen. *Wodnes*) and *beorh* (dat. *beorge*), a hill, mount—'Woden's hill.' Woden was one of the principal deities of the Saxons. I thought, at one time, that the name might also have been borne by ordinary mortals; but having been unable to discover a single instance of its use, I have arrived at the conclusion that the god is referred to. Grimm (Teutonic Mythology) says that the Saxons named their children after their mythological heroes, but not after their gods. Wednesbury stands on a conspicuous somewhat conical hill, on which, it is said, a temple to Woden formerly stood. That is probably true, but there is no evidence of it beyond his name. Cf. Wednesfield, the Wansdyke (*Wodnesdic*), and Wensley in Derbyshire, anciently *Wedneslegh*. In Germany, where *Woden* took the form of *Woatan*, *Wuotan*, *Wodan*, and in Scandinavia, where the form was *Odin*, the name forms the prefix to several pl. names. The battles referred to in the A. S. Chronicle, under the year 592, when 'there was a great slaughter in Britain and Ceawlin was driven out,' and under 715, when 'Ina and Ceolred fought,' were certainly waged at Wednesbury, though old writers imperfectly acquainted with local etymology, followed

blindly by modern historians, have laid the scene of both engagements at Wanborough in Wilts. (*v.* Preface, vii).

Wednesfield, 3 m. E. of Wolverhampton. 994 *Wodnesfeld*; D. *Wodnesfeld.* 'Woden's field.' *V.* Wednesbury. In 910 a battle was fought here between the Saxons and the Danes, in which the Saxons were victors. The A. S. Chronicle records it as being fought at Tettenhall (*Teotanheale*), 2 m. NW.

Weeford, 4 m. SE. of Lichfield. D. *Weforde*; 12 c. *Weford*; 13 c. *Weford.* Weeford lies on Watling Street, which here crosses a small tributary of Blackbrook. The terminal is clearly A. S. *ford,* a ford (q. v.). If the name was M. E. the prefix might be construed *wee*, little, small; but being in D., it is clearly A. S., and we have no evidence that *wee* was an A. S. word; it is supposed to have been introduced by the Danes. It might be suggested that the prefix represents A. S. *weg* (*g* = *y*), a way, road; but then the forms ought to give us *Weiford,* and the modern form should be *Way*ford. The *wee* may represent A. S. *wæd,* a shallow ford, but without earlier forms it is only guess.

Weeping Cross, 2 m. SE. of Stafford, at the junction of the great London and NW. road with the road from Birmingham and Walsall, marks the site of one of the crosses or stations which, before the Reformation, were as common on our highways as they are still in Roman Catholic countries, and where the pious or penitent offered their devotions. 'To come home by Weeping Cross' means to repent, to grieve.

Wergs (The), h., 3 m. NW. of Wolverhampton. 13 c. *Wytheges*; 14 c. *Withegis, Wytheges, Withegges, Wyrges.* M. E. *withi, withthe,* and *hegges*—the withy hedges. In early times hedges were very rudely made, a ditch and bank with a dead fence upon it being customary. A live thorn-fence was practically unknown. Here some early squatter probably fenced his land with withy (sallow). There is a field called 'The Wergs' in Coton Clanford, and in 1636 there were,

and probably still are, two fields, on separate farms, in Weston-under-Lizard bearing the same name.

Westbromwich, *v.* Bromwich (West).

Weston, h., in Standon, 6 m. S. of Stoke. D. *Westone.* A. S. *West-tūn*—West town. D. records sixty-five *Westone* and *Westune.*

Weston Coyney, h., in Caverswall, 5 m. W. of Cheadle. D. *Westone.* *V.* Weston. Coyney is a M. E. addition, the Coyneys (rightly Coignet) being Norman lords.

Weston Jones, h., in Norbury, 3 m. NE. of Newport. 14 c. *Weston Jhones, Weston Jones.* *V.* Weston. Jones was probably a local landowner, and his name added to distinguish the place from other Westons.

Weston-under-Lizard, 7 m. SE. of Newport. D. *Westone.* 14 c. *Weston-under-Brewode, Weston-under-Lusyerd*; 15 c. *Weston-subtus-Luceyord.* *V.* Weston. The village lies 2 m. NE. of Lizard Hill, a conspicuous eminence. Lizard appears in a forged A. S. Peterborough charter (probably post-Conquest) as *Lusgerd*; 12 c. *Luseiard*; 13 c. *Lusyard* (frequently), which I should read as M. E. *Luce-geard*, a fish-yard (i. e. a fish-pond or stew), from O. F. *lus*, fish.

Weston-on-Trent, 6 m. NE. of Stafford. 1004 *Westun*; D. *Westone.* *V.* Weston.

Wetmoor, h., 2 m. NE. of Burton. 11 c. *Withmere, Witmere, Wihtmere*; D. *Witmere*; 13 and 14 c. regularly, *Withmere.* In the 11 c. charter the bounds of Wetmoor commence *Ærst of Trente wær tha theofes hangath,* 'first from Trent where the thieves hang.' The locality is, or was until lately, known as Gallows Flat, and Gallows Lane. This is clearly 'withy mere' (pool). The place lies on Trent side.

Wheaten Aston, 5 m. W. of Penkridge; an ancient village, though not mentioned in D. 12 c. *Estone*; 1327 *Aston*; 1362 *Whetone Aston.* Aston means East-town (*v.* Aston). Wheaten is M. E. *wheten,* wheaten. Probably it was

a wheat-growing locality in the 14 c., and a second name was wanted to distinguish it from other Astons. *Wheat-* is the prefix to many pl. names. The A. S. form was *hwæte*; the *h* shifted in late M. E., and it became *whete*, later *wheat*.

Whiston, h., 2 m. W. of Penkridge. 1004 *Witestun*; 11 c. *Witestone*; D. *Witestone*. *Wita* was an A. S. p. n., and the possessive *s* of the forms points to a p. n. It is frequently written *Wite* in A. S. charters, and we may translate this 'Wite's town.'

Whiston, h., in Kingsley, 2½ m. N. of Cheadle. D. *Witestone*—'Wite's town.' *V.* Whiston nr. Penkridge.

Whitgreave, h., 4 m. NW. of Stafford. 12 and 13 c. *Whitegrave, Whitegreve, Witegreve, Wytgreve*. A. S. *hwīt-grǣfa*, M. E. *whīt-grēve*—White thicket or grove.

Whitmore, 4½ m. SW. of Newcastle. D. *Witemore*; 1242 *Wytemore-under-Lyme*. A. S. *hwīt-mōr*, M. E. *whit, wite, mōr, more*—White moor. (Perhaps p. n. *Wita*, from the absence of *h* in the early forms. W. H. S.)

Whittington, 3 m. E. of Lichfield. 925 *Hwitantone, Hwituntune*; 14 c. *Whytynton*. *Hwita* was an A. S. p. n. to which *n* would be the gen. addition, giving us Hwita's town, and a clear example of a gen. form passing into *ing*. (It may be 'Whitestone,' since the dative of the weak declension, which is generally used in local names and is a mark of great antiquity, was *hwītan*. W. H. S.) An A. S. initial *Hw* regularly becomes *Wh* in M. E.

Whittington, h., 4 m. SW. of Stourbridge. 13 c. *Whytynton, Whitenton*. The forms here are not so early or clear as in Whittington nr. Lichfield, but I construe them alike—'Wita's town.'

Wichnor, 6½ m. NE. of Lichfield. 11 c. *Hwiccenofre*, D. *Wicenore*; 12 c. *Whichnore, Wytchnor*; 13 c. *Wycchenore, Wychenovere*. The terminal is clearly A. S. *ōfre, ōfer*, edge, margin, bank (of river). Wichnor is on a bank sloping to the Trent. The prefixes in the forms would all be

pr. 'wich,' and the *n* is the correct gen. addition. If *Hwicce* had been an A. S. p. n. I should read the forms as 'Hwicce's bank'; but I can find no satisfactory record of such a name. A Bishop of Lichfield (circa 737) is recorded by Simeon of Durham, who wrote circa 1120, as *Hwicca*; but contemporary charters describe him as *Hwita*, and as the *t* and *c* in A. S. are often indistinguishable, the presumption is that Simeon, or his transcribers, made a mistake. Assuming therefore that *Hwicce* is not a p. n. we find that in A. S. it means 'a chest, box, coffer.' In M. E. it becomes *whyche* and *huche*, and in Mod. Eng. *hutch*. We may therefore read Wichnor as 'the bank of the chest or hutch.' A. S. *ceste* (*c* = *ch*) means a chest, coffin, sarcophagus, but I cannot find any authority for saying that *hwicce* had these extended meanings. *V.* Seighford. *Hwicce* was the name of a province comprising Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and part of Warwickshire, the people of which were called Hwiccas, Hwiccii, &c., whence, directly or indirectly, I think we get the word *wich* in connexion with salt towns, as in Droit*wich*, Nant*wich*, Shirley*wich*, North*wich*, Middle*wich*, &c. *Wich* certainly came to mean a brine spring, and I translate *Hwiccas* as 'salt people.' Wychwood, in Oxfordshire, formerly belonged to the bishops of the Hwiccii, and certainly derives its prefix from them. It is not impossible that some of these people migrated up or down Trent, and, settling at Wichnor, gave their name to it. But the meaning must, for the present, be considered unsettled.

Wicken, a local name in N. Staffs. It is common in Yorkshire and the N. of England, and occasional in Cheshire and Salop, but unknown in S. Staffs. It is a dialectic word (origin unknown) for the mountain ash, also known in the N. as the rowan-tree. The name is sometimes found as Quicken and Wiggin.

Wigginton, 2½ m. N. of Tamworth. 11 c. *Wicgintun*;

D. *Wigetone*. *Wicga* was a common A. S. p. n., and I read this as 'Wicga's town' (*v.* Ton). The correct A. S. form would be *Wicgantūn*. It is curious that all pl. names commencing *Wig* have stopped at *an*, *en*, or *in*, never passing into *ing*, as so common with the gen. and dat. forms of strong nouns.

Wightwick, h., 3 m. W. of Wolverhampton. D. *Wistewic*; 13 c. *Wystewyk*, *Wytewyk*. The terminal is clearly A. S. *wic*, a village, and one is disposed to read the prefix as representing A. S. *west*—west village; but *wist* or *wyst* do not appear ever to have been forms of *west*. (No. From modern form it is evident that *st* represents *ht*, and therefore an O. E. *Wihtanwic* or *Wihtes-wic* = Wihta's or Wiht's village. W. H. S.)

Wilbrighton, h., in Gnosall. D. *Wilbrestone*; 13 c. *Wylbricton*. A. S. p. n. *Wilbriht*—'Wilbriht's town' (*v.* Ton).

Willenhall, 3 m. W. of Walsall. Ethelbald, King of the Mercians, about 732 tests two charters at *Willanhalch* (Cart. Sax. 149, 150), which I assume to be this Willenhall (there is another Willenhall in Coventry); 996 *Willanhale*; D. *Winehala*, *Winenhale*; 12 c. *Willenhal*, *Willenhale*. The first form is perfect A. S. for 'the meadow-land of Willa.' *Halch* is the dat. form of *healh* (*v.* Hale). D. has blundered.

Winnington, h., in Mucklestone, 4 m. E. of Market Drayton. D. *Wennitone*. *Wenni* was an A. S. p. n., and I should think this was Wenni's town. If so the correct A. S. form would be *Wennintūn*, and D. is very near it.

Wobaston, ancient farm in Bushbury, 3 m. N. of Wolverhampton. 1227 *Wibaldestun*; 1327 *Wybaston*. The first form is perfectly correct, and gives us 'Wibald's town,' *Wibald* being a short form of *Wigbeald*, bold in battle. *V.* Ton.

Wolgarston, ancient farm in Penkridge. D. *Turgarestone*; 12 c. *Wulgarestone*. There is some error in the D. form. The meaning is clearly 'Wulfgar's town.'

Wolseley, h. and hall, 2 m. NW. of Rugeley. D. *Ulslei*; 12 c. *Wulfsiesley*, *Wulfsiesleg*, frequently; 13 c. *Wulseleye*.

D. never uses *Wu*, but always writes it *U* or *W*. This is clearly 'Wulfsige's lea' (*v.* Ley). The name frequently appears as *Wulfsi*. It means 'victorious wolf.' The Wolseleys of Wolseley are lineal descendants of the Saxon possessor.

Wolstanton. D. *Wistanetone*; 1198 *Wulstanestone*. Here the 12 c. form, coupled with the modern one, is preferable to D.; indeed most 12 c. forms are. It gives us 'Wulfstan's town' (*v.* Ton). If the D. form was accepted it would be 'Wigstan's town.' *Wigstan* frequently appears as *Wistan*, even before the Conquest.

Wolverhampton. 985 *Heantune* (charter of Ethelred, Cod. Dip. 650, clearly identified with Wolverhampton by Wulfrūn being mentioned in it, and Trysull, Trescote, and Bilston also referred to); 994 *Hamtun*, *Hantone* (charter of Wulfrūn, only a corrupt copy of which remains); 1006 *Heantun* (Will of Wulfgate of Donnington nr. Albrighton); D. *Hantone*, *Handone*; Worcestershire D. *Wrehantone*, *Wrehantune*; 12 c. *Wulfrunehanton*, *Wulfrunhamtun*, *Wolverenehampton*, *Wolvernhampton*; 13 c., commonly, *Wolvernhampton*. This is an interesting example of the value of early forms and of the progress of corruption and mediaeval addition. It is clear that the original name was *Hēantūn*—High town. D. confirms this, *Hean* in D. always being represented by *Han*. The *Wre* in the Worcestershire D. doubtless represents 'Wulfrūn,' or as much of that name as the scribe could master, the Normans abhorring *Wu*. Wulfrūn was a lady of rank who in 994 gave great possessions to the church at Wolverhampton, and it is clear that soon afterwards her name was prefixed for distinction. The passage from *Wulfrūn* to *Wolverene-*, *Wolverne-*, and *Wolver-*, is in accordance with phonetic law. In my opinion many Hamptons have been originally *Heantūn*, but D., invariably writing *Han-* for *Hean-*, has changed the form. Hampton Lucy, in Warwickshire, was *Heamtun* in 1062; Hampton-on-the-hill, nr. Warwick, is *Hantone* in D., and so is Hampton-

in-Arden, Dugdale, no mean authority, writing 'from *hean*, high, corrupted to *ham*.' Hampton Gay, in Oxfordshire, was *Hēantūn* in 958. The *p* in *-hampton* is excrescent, and the natural result of accent falling on *m*. Wolverhampton stands on high table-land.

Wombourne, 5 m. SW. of Wolverhampton. D. *Wamburne*; 12 c. *Wamburne*; 13 c. *Wombeburne, Wamburn.* The terminal is A. S. *burne,* a brook. I suggest that the prefix is A. S. and M. E. *wambe, wombe,* 'belly, womb,' here used in the sense of 'hollow.' In Cod. Dip. 559, the charter, describing a boundary, says (translated): 'Along the hedge-row; then to Ondoncilles *wombe*,' and Kemble translates this 'a *womb* or hollow.' The original meaning of 'belly' was a bag, and 'bellows' is only a plural form of the word. If a seam of coal dips and rises again we say it 'bellies.' The Cent. Dict. gives as one of the meanings of *womb*, 'any large or deep cavity that receives or contains anything,' and Shakespeare speaks of 'the fatal cannon's *womb*.' Wombridge in Salop, and Wombwell in Yorkshire, may be examples of the use of the word in the sense suggested. I think we shall be right in construing Wombourne as 'the brook in the hollow'; its situation quite accords with that construction.

Woollaston, h., 7 m. SW. of Stafford. D. *Ullavestone*; 13 c. *Wolaston, Wollaston.* D. never uses *Wu*, always spelling *Wulf Wl* or *Ul.* We have here clearly 'Wulflaf's town' (*v.* Ton). Before the Conquest the name sometimes appears as Wullaf.

Wootton, h., 1½ m. S. of Eccleshall. D. *Wodetone.* A. S. *Wudutūn,* M. E. *Wodetone*—Wood town (*v.* Ton). At the time of D. the manor belonged to the king, and was 'waste.' Eyton (Staffordshire D. Studies) identifies this place with *Wodestone*; but he is wrong: that manor was in Offlow hundred; this is in Pirehill. And he identifies Wootton-under-Weaver, 5 m. E. of Ashbourne, with this Wootton; and

again he is wrong, as Wootton-under-Weaver is in Totmanslow hundred. The D. manor of *Wodestone*, in Offlow, has yet to be 'discovered.' Most if not all 'Woottons,' if traced to the original form, would probably prove to be 'Wood town.' The common A. S. forms are *Wudutūn*, *Wudatūn*, *Wudetūn*; but a *Wodestone* (having the possessive *s*) I should translate 'Wuda's town.'

Wordsley, h., in Kingswinford, 2 m. NW. of Stourbridge. 12 c. *Wuluardeslea*; 13 c. *Wolwardele*. A. S. p. n. *Wulfweard*—'Wulfweard's lea' (*v.* Ley). *Wulf*, wolf, plays a great part in A. S. p. names.

Worstead Hall, Delves Green, 2 m. S. of Walsall, an old farm. 15 c. *Walstode*, *Walstead*, *Walstede*, the name of a yeoman family living here for several generations in the 15, 16, and 17 c. The original name was A. S. *Wealhstod*. A large number of our family names are corrupt forms of A. S. p. names.

Worston, h., 5 m. NW. of Stafford. 13 and 14 c. *Wiveleston*, *Wyverstone*, *Wyfridestone*, *Worflestone*. A. S. p. n. *Wifel* (gen. *Wifles*)—'Wifel's town' (*v.* Ton). Wiveliscombe, in Devon, is 'Wifel's valley.' This example shows that words, like most things, generally take the least line of resistance.

Wrinehill, h., in Madeley Manor, 5 m. W. of Newcastle. 975 *Wriman ford*; 14 c. *Wryme*; 15 and 16 c. *Wrymhill*, *Wryme hull*. The *an* here is the gen. form of *Wrim*, and gives us Wrim's ford. I am not sure that *Wrim* was an A. S. p. n., as I have only met with it in this form, but I think it was, it being a Teutonic name.

Wrottesley, h., 4 m. NW. of Wolverhampton. D. *Wrotolei*; 12 c. *Wrotelei*, *Wroteslea*, *Wrotesleg*, *Wrottesley*. I think it probable the original name was *Wrotesley*, and the possessive *s* points to a p. n. Though I have never met with *Wrōt* in that sense, I think it must have been a name, as in A. S. it means a snout, trunk (of elephant, &c.), and was a likely name to be conferred upon a man with a remarkable nose.

I think it must be 'Wrot's lea' (*v.* Ley). I can make nothing else of it.

Wyrley (Great), 6 m. N. of Walsall. **Wyrley (Little)**, h., in Norton Canes, 5 m. N. of Walsall. D. *Wireleia*; 12 c. *Wirlege*; 13 c. *Wirley*, *Wyrle*. I think this is A.S. *wir* and *ley* (q.v.)—the lea of the myrtle. In A.S. *wir* and *gagel* are synonyms for myrtle (*Myrica Gale*); but the latter word was more commonly used, and I have not met with *wir* in M.E., or in any dialectic form. The greater part of Wyrley is low-lying land, on which the wild myrtle would be likely to flourish before enclosure. It lay in the hay of Cheslyn, in Cannock Forest. *V.* Gailey Hay, which lies 2 m. W. Wirrall, in Cheshire, the low-lying peninsula between the Mersey and the Dee, has probably a similar origin.

Yarlett, 4½ m. N. of Stafford. D. *Erlide*; 12 c. *Erlide*; 13 c. *Erlide*, *Erlyde*, *Herlide*; 14 c. *Erlede*, *Erlide*; 15 c. *Erlid*; 16 c. *Erlid*, *Yerlett*. This is the only *Erlide* recorded in D. It may have been A.S. *geardlyt* (*g* = *y*), little yard (or enclosure); but one would expect the initial *Y* to appear earlier in the forms. The accent falling distinctly on the final *t* would squeeze out the *d* in *geardlyt*.

Yarnfield, h., 2 m. W. of Norton Bridge. 1266 *Ernefeld*; 1327 *Ernefen*; 1379 *Ernefen*; 16 c. *Yernfyn*, *Yarnefylde*. The terminal appears to have oscillated for a time between 'field' and 'fen,' and finally to have settled down to 'field.' I think the prefix must have been A.S. *gearn* (*g* = *y*), M.E. *yarn*, meaning, originally, thread of any kind spun from natural fibres, vegetable, animal, or mineral. Probably, in primitive times, the 'field' or 'fen' produced a vegetable of which a rude 'yarn' was made. Yarnfield, in Somersetshire, appears to have had this origin, as D. records it *Gernfelle*.

Yoxall, 7 m. NE. of Lichfield. D. *Locheshale*; 13 c. *Yoxhal*, *Yoxhale*, *Jokesal*; 14 c. *Yokeshale*, *Joxhale*. The

D. scribe probably intended to write *Iocheshale*. The letters *L* and *I*, in D., are so much alike as to be easily mistaken by a transcriber, and D. is a transcript. The same mistake is made in Yockleton, Salop, which D. records as *Loclehuile* (recte *Geochull*). The initial *J* in two of the forms must be read *I*, a mediaeval J being merely I with a long tail. In A. S. *geoc*, *gioc*, later *ioc*, M.E. *yok*, mean a yoke, a yoke of oxen, and also a measure of land. It is in the last sense that we must construe Yoxall. A *yoke* was 'as much land as might be plowed by a pair of oxen in a day.' The word is used in charters as descriptive of quantity; e. g. 'Now of the land which I give to the convent there are sixteen yokes (*gioc*) of arable land and meadow' (Cod. Dip. 417). *G* before *e* becomes *y*, as *geoc*, *ioc*, *yok*, *yoke*. The word is often found in connexion with pl. names in A. S. charters, e. g. *Geocham* (Cod. Dip. 477), *Geocburne* (id. 1250), *Geochangran* (id. 1235), the prefixes all meaning and becoming *yoke*. Yoxford in Suffolk is *Gokesford* in D., the prefix representing an original *geoc*. The terminal here is clearly *hale* (q. v.), and, having regard to the prefix, I translate it 'meadow or pasture.' A *yokelet* is given in Jacob's Law Dictionary, 1784, as 'a little farm, so called from its requiring but a *yoke* of oxen to till it.' Yoxall lay in Needwood, and probably owes its name to some early squatter who carved his little farm out of the Forest.

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